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MAY - 2011
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Q VEGAS



HOT CHOCOLATE

IS SO VEGAS

INSIDE

OUR FAVORITE VEGAS PEEPS - DRUNK DINING - DIRTY VEGAS
RIBBON OF LIFE - ABSINTHE - STAYCATION AT RAVELLA
BIGHORN RODEO - GERRI JEWEL - RUNNING FOR MAYOR
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INSIDE

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About the Cover

International legendary celebrity impersonator Larry Edwards a Las Vegas Icon and known to many as Hot Chocolate and community leader. Chaun Thomas and John DeBeer appearing in "The Ultimate Girl's Night Out at the Rio's all-new Chippendales The Show." Photography by: Carissa Ramirez Shadari Moon Photography www.shadarimoon.com
Lighting: Image West, Imagewest.tv



MAY 2011 **THAT'S SO VEGAS** ISSUE

COVER



LAS VEGAS PEEPS

OUR FAVORITE LAS VEGAS PEEPS: A HANDFUL OF LAS VEGAS LOCALS WHO REPRESENT OUR WONDERFUL COMMUNITY. FIND OUT WHY THEY ARE "SO VEGAS".

DRUNK DINING

AFTER A FUN NIGHT OF DRINKING, FOOD IS ALWAYS ON THE MIND! HERE IS A LIST OF OUR FAVORITE PLACES TO GO WHEN WE ARE TIRED, WASTED, AND HUNGRY!

RUNNING FOR MAYOR

CHRIS GIUNCHIGLIANI HAS BEEN A PUBLIC SERVANT FOR ALMOST 3 DECADES. SEE WHY QVEGAS GIVES HER OUR FULL ENDORSEMENT.

HOT CHOCOLATE

The long-time Las Vegas resident is as busy off-stage as on. Read why Hot Chocolate (AKA Larry Edwards) is a Las Vegas Superstar!

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a note from our EDITOR IN CHIEF

That's so gay should be termed, "That's So Vegas" and in this issue we found a few really fun people with "So Vegas" jobs. In fact, each month QVegas will be featuring interesting people who are unique to our cool city. So, if you or someone you know is "That's So Vegas" drop us a line and tell us about them.

Larry Edwards, aka Hot Chocolate, an icon among us, has an incredible story to tell and we are honored he has chosen QVegas as his voice. Larry is being honored as BigHorn Rodeo Grand Marshall; an honor that is well deserved. Congratulations on being BigHorn Grand Marshal.

I am excited it's BigHorn Rodeo time again and Laura Scott is the Rodeo Director this year, great friend and my dog-sitter. If you have not been to a rodeo I really recommend it. They are a blast! Especially if you participate, yes I said participate. No you don't have to ride a bull, although that might be fun. Rodeo has tons of events for us non-chap-cowboyboot-yahooing kinda folk. Or you could just come for the cowboys

and cowgirls and cheer, have a beer and stay for the dancing.

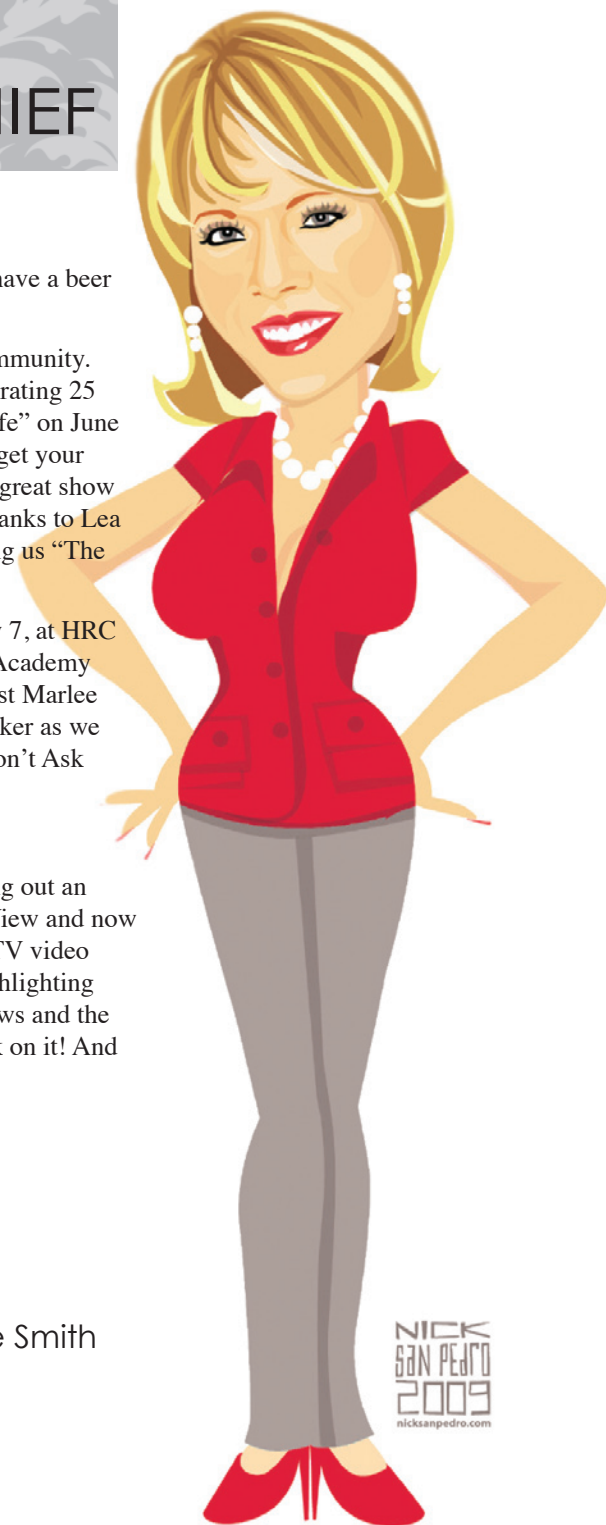
We have such a great community. Golden Rainbow is celebrating 25 years with "Ribbon of Life" on June 26 at Paris Las Vegas so get your tickets, it's going to be a great show this year. Also, special thanks to Lea Carrasco Zanini for giving us "The Last Word" this month.

I hope to see you on May 7, at HRC 6th Annual Gala Dinner, Academy Award Winner and activist Marlee Matlin will be guest speaker as we celebrate the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell.

P.S.

Each week we are sending out an email blast called the QView and now each view will have a QTV video spot with Steve Erics highlighting weekend events, interviews and the Vegas scene! Please click on it! And email me your thoughts.

 Kelly McFarlane Smith



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WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

Do you have something on your mind? Do you have something to say about an article in QVegas or any topic of interest to our readers? Do you have an idea for a future story? We want to hear from you! Simply send an e-mail to Editor@QVegas.com. Letters to the Editor may be printed in a future issue if signed and may be edited for clarity or length.



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IN MEMORIAM

REMEMBERING TEENA MARIE

BY SCOTT C. WEISS



This might be a little off the beaten path, but I feel as if it needs to be said. On December 26th, 2010, the music world lost one of its most talented and gifted artists, Teena Marie. She was an amazingly talented and gifted writer, producer, and arranger with a voice to match. Most of you know her for her 1984 hit "Lovergirl", but there was so much more to this brilliant woman. I had the pleasure of meeting her on many occasions, and was always in awe of her amazing spirit. The reason I am writing this is mainly because of the little known fact that she was "family". I just wanted to share with everyone, that our community lost a very special woman with a talent nearly impossible to come by. R.I.P. Lady Tee....you are missed. ■



SIR ELTON JOHN RETURNS TO CAESARS PALACE

Elton is back at Caesars, September 28, 2011 but The “Red Piano” is being replaced. “Caesars Palace is just a perfect, idyllic place to play, and the show will be a gargantuan feast of music and imagery,” said Elton. “I’m going to have a fabulous piano that Yamaha has been working on for four years, and that’s the reason why the show is called ‘The Million Dollar Piano.’”

Prices range from \$55 to \$250, plus applicable fees, and there is an eight-ticket limit per customer.

Limited VIP tickets are available through the Caesars Palace Box Office. Tickets may be purchased on TicketMaster.com, keyword “Elton John.” For groups of 20 or more, call 702.731.7208. ■



CCC BOWL-A-THON

Get your ball out and raise some funds for The Community Counseling Center BOWL-A-THON slated for Saturday, May 21 at Orleans Bowling Alley. Registration from 5:30 -7 p.m. with bowling from 7-10 p.m. \$20 for shoe rental and 3 games. Food and drink specials all night long. Proceeds to benefit Community Counseling Center. Make it challenging, get your friends to give you a dollar for every spare and strike you throw. ■



EPICUREAN AFFAIR

Poolside at the Palazzo the Nevada Restaurant Association hosts the Epicurean Affair with a tantalizing evening of culinary splendor. Guests will savor samplings of cuisine and cocktails from prestigious restaurants and beverage purveyors in a luxurious poolside setting for an event that is Las Vegas.

The Las Vegas Epicurean Affair is open to the public and will be held Thursday, May 26, 2011 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Tickets are \$100 each. VIP tickets are \$150 each for early admission at 6:00 p.m. Proceeds from the event benefit NvRA’s educational and scholarship program. To purchase tickets visit www.venetian.com/epicurean or call suite reservations at 702.607.4100 ■



MARLEE MATLIN AT GALA

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the nation’s largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization, will welcome Academy Award-winning actress and

activist, Marlee Matlin, as the featured speaker at the 6th Annual Las Vegas Gala Dinner on Saturday, May 7 at 6 p.m. at Aria Resort Casino, CityCenter, Las Vegas. Matlin will be joined by HRC’s President Joe Solmonese and an expected audience of more than 500 attendees. This year’s event theme, “Be Part of Equality,” underscores the determination and commitment by Nevada community members to achieve the goal of equality for all.

A celebrity-filled, VIP reception begins at 5:30 p.m. Tickets for the reception can also be purchased at lasvegas.hrc.org. General registration, cocktail reception and silent auction begin at 6 p.m., followed by dinner and the awards ceremony at 7 p.m. Gala attendees will also enjoy a special performance from Viva Elvis by CIRQUE DU SOLEIL. ■



JASON STUART HEADLINING

The gayest comedian, Jason Stuart is headlining for Bigger Vegas Weekend at Tuscany Casino, Saturday, May 28. Jason has been making people laugh out loud with his hysterical performances all over the country since coming out in 1993. He has accomplished what few other gay comics have ever achieved: brutal honesty with humor in a world that’s not always kind. Not only is Stuart an all-out crowd pleaser, he transcends the boundaries of race, gender and sexual orientation with his edgy comedic style. Jason has been in well over 150 feature

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film and TV shows to date. Most recently, he was seen on "The Closer", "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia" and just shot an episode of "Entourage" and the thriller "Home Invasion" starring Haylie Duff & C Thomas Howell. He has had his own stand up comedy special and appeared on "Comics Unleashed", "One Night Stand UP" and "Wisecrack."

For more information visit jasonstuart.com or biggervegas.com ■



JENNIFER HUDSON RETURNS TO THE PEARL

Grammy award winning Jennifer Hudson will return to the Pearl at the Palms Casino Resort on Friday, June 24, 2011, at 8 p.m. with special guest Miguel as part of the I Remember Me tour.

Hudson's new record, *I Remember Me*, is a remarkable step forward for one of the biggest and most talked-about stars to emerge in recent years. The album is the follow-up to 2008's Grammy-winning, gold-certified self-titled release from an artist who had already conquered the worlds of television with her success on *American Idol* and movies through her triumphant, Academy Award-winning performance in *Dreamgirls*.

Tickets are \$55, \$75, \$100 & \$125, purchase tickets, visit the Pearl Box Office, call 702-944-3200, visit any Ticketmaster location, call 1-800-745-3000 or visit www.ticketmaster.com ■



OUT FRONT COLORADO

Out Front Colorado's 35th anniversary edition hits the streets April 6 marking a historical moment for the state's – and the nation's – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community.

Out Front Colorado is one of only three regional-LGBT news organizations to reach that milestone in the U.S., and most likely the world.

From the Gay Liberation movement of the '70s to the fight for civil unions in 2011, Out Front Colorado has covered the Rocky Mountain, national and international LGBT community with gusto. And to think, it all started in an apartment in Boulder. Out Front Colorado's founder, Phil Price began the publication as a way to unite the community, to add to the dialogue that was being had: "what does it mean to be gay?"

From the first issue which came out in print on April 2, 1976 – which featured stories on Senate Bill 1, hustling and fashion – Price set out to print the news and – as the saying goes – raise hell.

Today, publishers Greg Montoya and Jay Klein are continuing that legacy. "What Phil wanted to do, was be the record keeper of the LGBT community," Montoya said. "And that's what we do. We've been there at every turn: the HIV/AIDS epidemic, Amendment 2, Matthew Shepard, Ref I and now civil union legislation. www.OutFrontColorado.com ■



SHELLY BERKLEY RUNNING FOR SENATE

Congresswoman Shelley Berkley released the following statement on her decision to run for the United States Senate. Shelley will hold an announcement event in Nevada in the coming weeks. Details will be available soon.

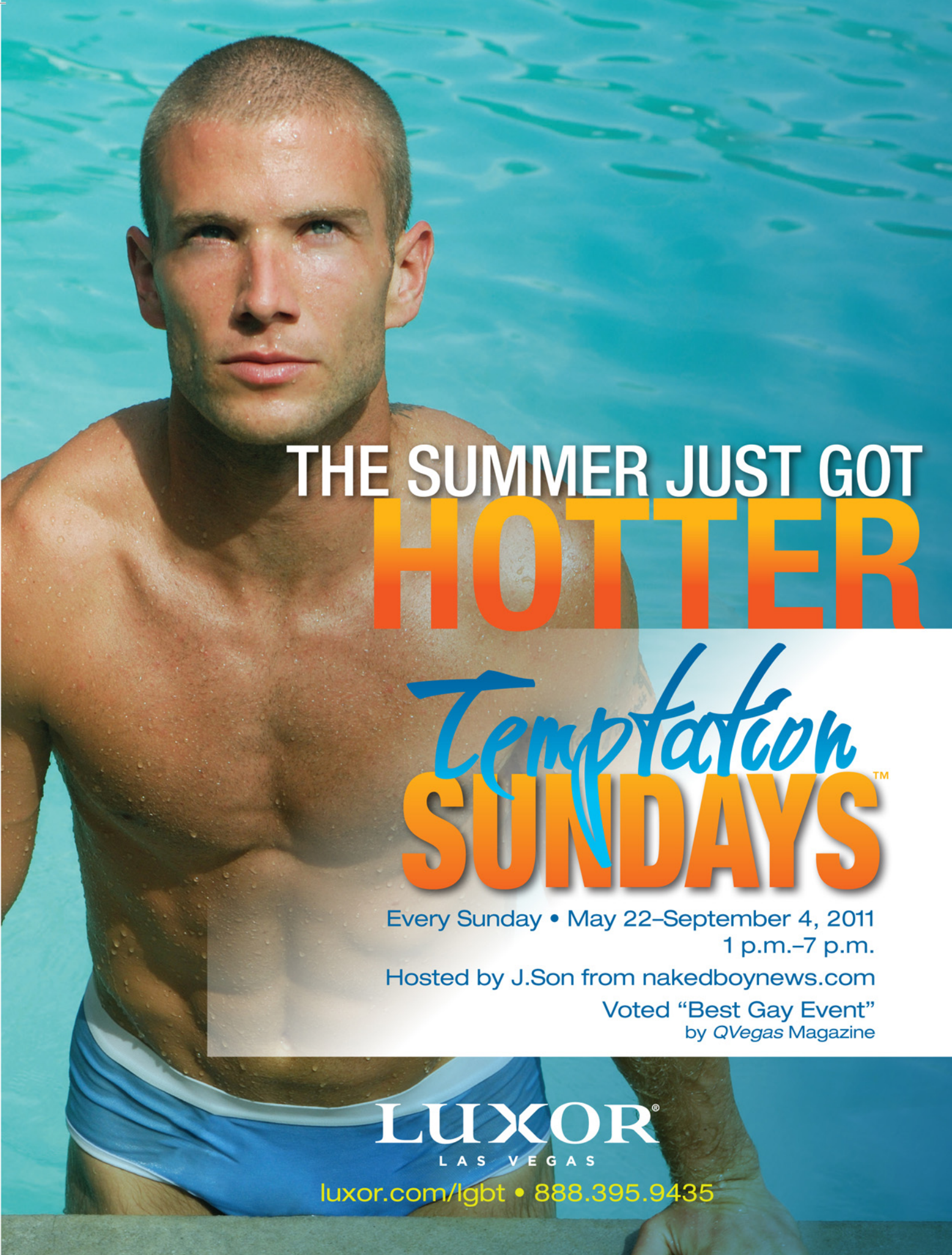
"These are serious times in our nation's history and that's particularly true for Nevada, where our economy has been hit especially hard. As I talk to Nevadans across our state I hear one priority: jobs, jobs, jobs. And that has been my focus, whether it is fighting to prevent more layoffs of teachers, police and firefighters or getting loans for small business that want to grow, or helping Nevada become the clean energy capital of the world.

"The problem in Washington is that Republicans like Dean Heller are clinging to extreme ideology rather than working on solutions that address the challenges facing our state.

"This race is about a clear choice for Nevada's future. While Dean Heller is proudly fighting on behalf of the Tea Party to dismantle Medicare and Social Security and protect corporations that ship American jobs overseas, I will continue working on behalf of Nevada's middle-class families by creating good paying jobs and keeping our promises to seniors.

"Nevadans know me and they know I will never stop working on behalf of our state, standing up for veterans, creating opportunities for our children, fighting to end Yucca Mountain and helping our economy recover by putting people back to work. There is so much at stake in this election for Nevada. And that is why I have decided to run for the US Senate and work to build a stronger future for our state." ■

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GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS



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IT'S HEATING UP TO 98 DEGREES

The temperature will rise at the Rio All-Suite Hotel and Casino in May as Jeff Timmons, the founding member of the internationally-acclaimed and Grammy nominated, multi-platinum selling group 98 Degrees, joins the cast of CHIPPENDALES as the Special Musical Guest Star and Emcee, where he will flex his vocal chords and muscles for four weekends only, May 12 through June 5, 2011.

Sinful schoolboy charm and naughty fantasy colliding with the boy next door - this is the winning combination that has solidified Chippendales as the premier brand in women's entertainment. In June 2009, the iconic bare-

chested men with their cuffs and collars kicked off their year-long, 30th Anniversary as the internationally known brand and household name across the globe - with the reputation of being The Ultimate Girls Night Out™! In addition, the critically acclaimed Las Vegas production will celebrate its "Nine Years of Six Packs" at the Rio All-Suites Hotel and Casino, with over 3,500 performances in Las Vegas alone.

Tickets are \$39.95 and \$49.95. For tickets, call (702) 777-7776. . For additional information visit www.Chippendales.com ■

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JOSH REPORTS

"I'M SO HAPPY WITH THE WAY THE FIRST SINGLE CAME OUT"

Josh Strickland, currently starring in *PEEPSHOW* and "Holly's World" on E!, debuted the video for his first ever solo artist single, "Report to the Floor." The world premier of the video took place after the hit reality show. The single has now taken the world by storm and is currently #3 on the iTunes Dance Charts.

"I am so happy with the way the first single came out," said Strickland. "It was such a thrill to work with a producer of Damon's caliber and the work that Axident did is amazing. I really feel so comfortable with the finished product. 'Report to the Floor' is a really fun song with a great beat. I really hope everyone enjoys listening to it as much as we enjoyed making it." www.eonline.com ■



IT'S SO BIG AND BLUE

Operation: Blue Takeover took the Las Vegas Strip by storm. In a rare and exciting event, members of Blue Man Group traveled to the Plaza at Fashion Show to celebrate the presentation of their interactive, 15-foot-tall statue. To celebrate, a larger-than-life Twinkie cake designed by Freed's Bakery of Las Vegas was presented to the Blue Men to commemorate their first visit to see their statue. Designed by YESCO LLC for Blue Man Group Las Vegas, the one-of-a-kind custom statue features two large, high-definition monitors and an interactive fan cam. The fan cam captures video of visitors and broadcasts it live on one of the monitors. The second monitor features exclusive Blue Man Group clips and content from the show. ■



GOT BALLS?

Haulin Balls, Vegas' newest gourmet food truck Balls' gourmet offerings will introduce several unique takes on the traditional meatball. This will be a welcome addition

to the community of gourmet food trucks currently on the road in the Vegas valley serving up a wide variety of delicious fare.

According to Gregory Arianoff, co-owner and operator of Haulin Balls, "Our concept will bring one more choice for the residents of Southern Nevada and the food truck fans. Our menu emphasizes the use of fresh herbs in all of our meatballs, which is key to enhancing the flavors." Find out where to get those balls at haulinballslv.com ■



SUMMER SPLASH COCKTAIL CHALLENGE

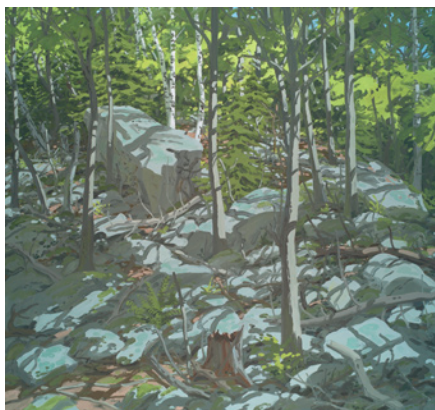
America's Gay Oasis is once again challenging bartenders in 12 gay clubs across the U.S. to stir, mix and shake up Palm Springs inspired cocktails for the 2nd Annual Palm Springs Summer Splash Cocktail Challenge. At each club, bartenders will compete and create their own signature cocktails, and will be evaluated on taste, presentation and name. The bartenders will also be judged on looks and attire, as well as presentation and audience participation. Contestants will receive bonus points if "Palm" or "Springs" is in the name or recipe of the signature drink. Come cheer for your favorite Bartender and enter to win a trip for 2 to where else but Palm Springs on May 27 at Charlie's Las Vegas. For more information visit palm SpringsCocktails.com

A SENSE OF PLACE

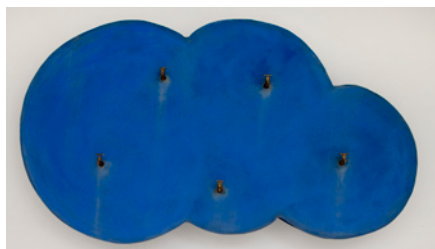
Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art (BGFA) will showcase "A Sense of Place: Landscapes from Monet to Hockney" in an organized partnership with the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (MCASD) and Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), the exhibition will showcase landscapes by artists including Claude Monet, Marc Chagall, Helen Frankenthaler, David Hockney, Sylvia Plimack Mangold, Robert Rauschenberg, Christo, Vik Muniz and many others. Through a juxtaposition of images, "A Sense of Place" will present more than 30 artworks ranging from paintings, photographs and a video installation that contrast and compare both approach and expressionism in art. Visit bellagio.com



Alfred Sisley, *The Loing at Saint-Mammès*, 1882, Oil on canvas, 19 5/8 x 25 9/16 inches, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Bequest of William A. Coolidge.



Neil Welliver, *Gould's Hill*, 1972, Oil on canvas, 72 x 60 inches, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Sophie M. Friedman Fund, © Neil Welliver, courtesy Alexandre Gallery, New York.



Robert Therrien, *No Title (blue cloud)*, 1992, Enamel on steel and mixed media, 63 x 106 x 12 inches, Collection Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Contemporary Collectors Fund and Museum purchase in honor of Lynda Forsha, © Robert Therrien/ Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. Photo: Pablo Mason. ■

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By CJ Cambell

ABSINTHE

For the more worldly among you Absinthe is the mysterious drink enjoyed by, among others Van Gogh and a host of other long forgotten celebrities of the Parisian Bohemian set. The drink itself was a poor man's beverage sold for a few souxs in the market place but it was extremely strong and imbued with properties that would make the imbibers trip out, for want of a better description.

What has this got to do with 21st century Las Vegas? Well, in the front yard of Caesars Palace is a little re-creation of European Bohemia called Spiegelworld. It has been described as Carnival for Adults. The centerpiece is a construction called Spiegeltent, but more of that later. Spiegelworld is a meeting place where you can drink and enjoy the strange and eclectic world you have entered. You will be entertained and gently worked over so that

your mood is right for what comes next. Inside Spiegeltent there is an intimate circular auditorium which, though in a tent has a more permanent feel about it. Spiegeltent is the home of Absinthe. The clinical description would be that it is a collection of acrobatic acts in a tent. But such a description would miss the point. These are not just any acrobats, this is an assembly of some of the most talented acrobatic artists you will see anywhere in the world. Moreover, the intimacy and closeness of the setting brings you up close and personal in a way which is truly exciting. I won't spoil your enjoyment with my inadequate descriptions just believe me when I say you haven't seen anything quite like this before. The show is compared by The Gazillionaire and his able assistant Penny. The humor is shocking, raw, cutting edge, immediate, uncontrived and totally authentic. My only advice is don't sit too close to the front, actually that won't save

you. My advice, in case the Gazillionaire picks on you, is go with the flow, you are in for one wild ride and the audience will appreciate your sportsmanship.

This is a show that will leave you feeling good. You will have been taken out of the drudgery of your real world and taken on a trip without having to take any drugs. Truly the guy who came up with this was high on something, but we would be the poorer without it so more power to him. This show gets a 'Must See' rating as it is truly something new for Las Vegas and quite unlike anything done here before.

You can get ticket:
From Ticketmaster.com
By calling 1 800 745 3000
At The Spiegelworld Box Office In front of Caesars Palace ■



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QUENCH 3RD THURSDAY

Quench and 3rd Thursday an HRC and QVegas Sponsored event will be hosted poolside at the Luxor Hotel and Casino May 19, 6-8 p.m., just in time for pool season. Meet the staff of Temptation Sundays as they prepare to hosts their 3rd year as Vegas' premier LGBT weekly pool party. HRC is proud to announce this is an 18 an over event.

Compliments of QVegas The first 100 guests will receive complementary tickets to Titanic or Bodies. For more information go to qvegas.com or lasvegas.hrc.org Temptation Sundays opens May 22, 1-7 p.m. at Luxor Las Vegas for more information luxor.com/lgbt. ■



LOS ANGELES BLACK PRIDE

Los Angeles Black Pride (LABP) has announced it has commissioned political consultant Jasmyne Cannick to prepare a study of Los Angeles County's Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community for a report to be released in July on the state of Black gays in the Los Angeles Metro Area. The study will include a survey that

analyzes data from participants including demographics, issues, and concerns of L.A.'s Black lesbian and gay community. The report will be released during Los Angeles Black Pride's annual pride celebration taking place June 30 through July 4. For more information, including survey participation, please log onto www.myblackpridelas.com/survey

My Black Pride LA, Saturday, July 2, tickets are \$10 youth and \$15 for 18 and over. Event begins Sunrise and ends at sunset at Point Dume State Beach in Malibu. 7200 Westward Beach Road, Malibu. ■

NEW COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTER

Community Counseling Center is open for business at their new facility and Nevada's First Lady, Kathleen Sandoval was there to cut the ribbon and tour the new Center. Community Counseling Center promotes the healthy functioning of individuals, families, and communities affordable, sensitive, and professional behavioral health services in a safe environment.

The new center is at 714 E. Sahara Ave., Suite 101, near the intersection of Sahara & 6th Street. Please call (702) 369-8700 for more information. To learn more at CCC and its 20 years of service to Las Vegas Community, to make a donation due to the devastating arson or services visit cccfn.org. ■

A CHOREOGRAPHERS' SHOWCASE

Nevada Ballet Theatre and Cirque du Soleil present their 4th annual collaboration, A Choreographers' Showcase, A Project Designed to Stimulate and Encourage Artistic Growth, will be presented on Sunday, May 15 at 1pm and Sunday, May 22 at 1 pm at the new Viva ELVIS Theatre, ARIA Resort & Casino, CityCenter

Choreographers' Showcase began as a premiere collaboration between Nevada Ballet Theatre and Cirque du Soleil on Sunday, December 2, 2007 at the Treasure Island Hotel & Casino on the famous Las Vegas strip. Now in its fourth year, this critically-acclaimed production has created an avenue of growth for local artists while providing Las Vegas

with a dynamic and completely organic dance experience.

You can purchase tickets for \$20 and \$40 by calling the Viva ELVIS box office at (702) 531-3800 or via online at www.nevadaballet.org Purchasing a \$40 ticket will afford one student the opportunity to attend the school matinee on Friday, May 20 as well as preferred seating for the ticket purchaser. ■



SIN CITY SISTERS' BOWLING

FREE Cocktails and BINGO and a fundraiser only the Sin City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence could pull that one off and they DID!

Sin City Sisters Silver Nugget BINGO are hosting a special 19 game session where you and your double-dauber could win up to \$7,500. The event takes place May 8, and no drag time here girls, you better have your cards and dauber in place by 5 p.m. at the Silver Nugget Casino. Fun! Raffle prizes! Free Cocktails! Half of all proceeds to benefit the Sisters Aids Drug Assistance Program. 2140 Las Vegas Blvd for more information visit sinsitysisters.org. ■





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DIRTY VEGAS

by DEREK WASHINGTON

Everyone who lives in Vegas will get "The Call". It usually starts with, "some friends and I are flying in Friday night and want to see the REAL Vegas. You know, Old School Vegas." That easier said than done with most of classic Vegas having been imploded for new mega resorts that, as chic as they are, just don't scream "VEGAS!". We do, however, have what we locals call "The Dirty Vegas Weekend"!

Upon arrival head directly to the El Cortez Cabana Suites Hotel for the kind of style that would have fit Sharon Stone in "Casino" just fine. With rates that top out at around \$100 for a suite, you can't rest your head any cheaper than this in this much style. Being a non gaming hotel, The El Cortez Cabana Suites is for the traveler who isn't looking for the resort experience Downtown. If you want the full casino resort vibe then you really need to check into The Golden Nugget. This property was recently given the most expensive makeover in downtown history, The Golden Nugget is full of Old School Glam and great upscale restaurants such as the Chart House with its huge dining room Aquarium.

If it's the beginning of the month, you're in luck, First Friday takes over Downtown for a blocks long party of art and music. The Bar + Bistro at The Arts Factory has a great indoor/outdoor vibe and is housed in a large former warehouse jam packed with galleries. Across the street is the brand new Artifice. This is the latest place to work your haircut and watch the local hipsters. Once upon a time Fremont Street was the main drag and many of the old hotels are still there. Overhead hangs the worlds' largest LED screen with millions of tiny lights where tributes to classic rock are shown late into the night. Every corner for has stages that host free concerts by golden oldies groups and tribute bands that rock out for free to packed crowds of fun loving tourists and locals. Make your way onto the balcony at the VUE Bar at Fitzgeralds for \$1 draft beers and a killer perch to people watch. Goldiggers at the Golden Nugget is the spot to watch bands on the main stage. The whole street can be seen from above on the new Zip Line that whisks you over

the heads of revelers carrying 3ft tall glasses of cocktails.

If you're staying at The Golden Nugget and just waking up around noon on Saturday (hey, it is Vegas!) you'll want to slide through the live Shark Tank in a glass tube that deposits you into the best pool scene in Downtown Las Vegas. Or you can call down to the front desk and have them arrange a trip to the Neon Museum aka "The Neon Boneyard" where many of the best of old Las Vegas neon signs await refurbishing to be placed throughout the city. Once night time hits it's time to head out to the best Downtown clubs. Beauty Bar hosts special theme nights on the weekends with top DJ's and "Indie" bands. Don't be surprised if you show up and the club has been turned into a Roller Disco!

The Griffin is next door for that period when you're ready to chillax around the 70's era fireplaces. Right across the street is the newest addition to the Fremont East scene, The Vanguard. Sporting South Beach style and a wall of windows that open onto the street, this is where you can listen to the latest Brazilian House music while checking out the twirling giant Martini Glass that lights up the street with its vintage Vegas neon flashing on and off. Before you stumble back to your room in the warm desert night air you have to have the Vegas late night treat, a Fried Twinkie at Mermaids. This is the ultimate dive casino with \$1 foot long Hot Dogs and the greasiest snacks this side of Coney Island. Don't leave home without a stop here!

Sunday means leisurely rolling out of bed and into The Beat at Emergency Arts. This is the Las Vegas coffee house. You can play any of the records from the rack at the turntable. You might be listening to 70's Donna Summer followed by Acid Rock before someone slips on Booker T and The MGs. The Sandwiches and salads will give you that energy you'll need to drag yourself back to your room to pack for the trip back from whence you came.

Remember, what happens in Downtown Vegas needs to be spread all over. Tell your friends to come and visit Dirty Vegas! ■

EL CORTEZ Cabana Suites 651 E Ogden Las Vegas NV (702) 385-5200

THE GOLDEN NUGGET 129 E Fremont St Las Vegas NV (702) 385-7111

THE BAR + BISTRO AT THE ARTS FACTORY 107 E Charleston Blvd Las Vegas NV (702) 202-6060

ARTIFICE URBAN LOUNGE 1025 First Street, #A Las Vegas NV

VUE BAR AT FITZGERALDS 301 Fremont St Las Vegas NV (702) 388-2400

NEON MUSEUM 821 Las Vegas Boulevard North Las Vegas NV (702) 387-6366

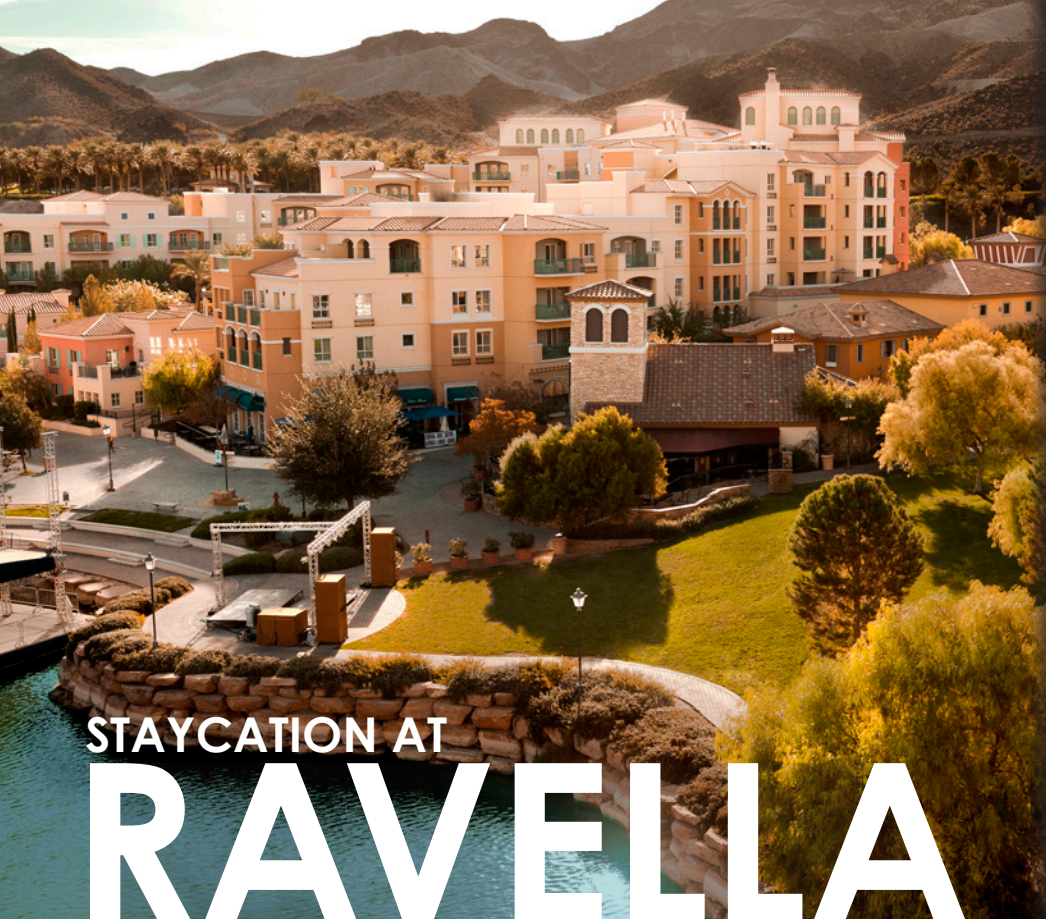
BEAUTY BAR 517 Fremont St # 150 Las Vegas NV (702) 598-1965

THE GRIFFIN 511 Fremont Street Las Vegas NV (702) 382-0577

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MERMAIDS CASINO 32 Fremont Street Las Vegas NV (702) 382-5777

THE BEAT COFFEE HOUSE 520 Fremont Street Las Vegas NV (702) 409-5563



STAYCATION AT RAVELLA

Ravella at Lake Las Vegas can hardly be called a “staycation” even though it is only 15 miles from the city. Yet, upon arriving you feel completely distant from the Vegas rat race. The former Ritz-Carlton property has maintained beauty but feels energized with a new sense of charm and relaxing atmosphere making Ravella the perfect weekend getaway for sipping drinks with picturesque views, lakeside dining and fun and relaxing activities including a beach.

Ravella's comfort offers spacious rooms with relaxing resort, lake and mountain views, european luxury linens, Marble baths, high-speed internet and turndown service, which is synonymous with luxury.

Nestled off the shore of the lake, Ravella enjoys it's own beach with a host of lake activities including kayaking, boarding, fishing, hiking and biking. Enjoy the two championship golf courses, or do nothing and relax in a cabana at the breathtaking pool.

Just outside the Mediterranean garden sits The Village at Lake Las Vegas where we recommend a unique dining experience at several of the Villages restaurants. Most restaurants will allow you to charge the experience to your room.

We recommend Bernard's Bistro for dinner and Medici Café for breakfast.

Ravella Spa and Fitness Center offers local discounts, ask at the desk when booking. The Spa's mission is to guide their guests to a better connection between their mind and body and they have accomplished just that with a host of massages, facials, body therapies and rituals. Nail services and youth treatments along with a knowledgably and compassionate staff make Ravella a body and mind experience that you will want repeat. We highly recommend the talented Sandra Deis, LMT on your first visit.

For more information or to book your next staycation visit ravellavegas.com

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE VILLAGE

MAY 7TH - Wine Walk More information available at www.winewalklv.com/index.php.

MAY 21ST - Fireworks

MAY 28TH - Gimme Shelter concert benefiting Heaven Can Wait Animal Society featuring Skip Martin. Information available at www.hcws.org/events.html. ■



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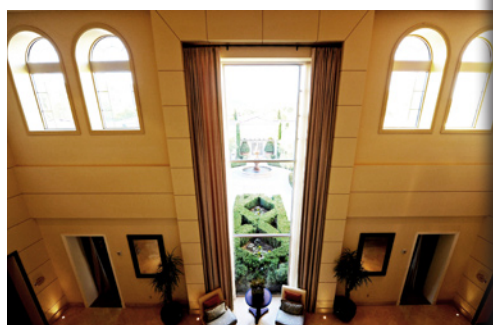
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WASTED, AND HUNGRY!

By Erica Grimaldo

THE PEPPERMILL

2985 S. Las Vegas Blvd., 24 hrs.

It has the cozy feel of a classic diner with a Vegas twist -neon lights, jewel-toned upholstery and an adjacent lounge with a full bar. The menu offers burgers, steaks and a long list of breakfast items available all day (with portions large enough to share). Try the French Toast Ambrosia or Joe's SF Special, a mountain of scrambled eggs with sausage and spinach - but get the cheese sauce on the side. Expect to pay about \$12 - \$20 for most entrees. You can also expect fast, friendly service and easy parking. Forgot it was your turn to be the designated driver? If you're partying on the Strip, take a short cab ride or hop on The Deuce, the double decker bus that runs non-stop along South Las Vegas Blvd.

FIREFLY TAPAS KITCHEN & BAR

3900 Paradise Rd., noon - 2 a.m. daily

Not open all night but still a great place to get your buzz on before you go clubbing at the Fruit Loop (1 mile away), Krave (1.6 miles) or The Strip. Picture soft lighting, cloth linens, vibrant art on the walls and upbeat music playing just loud enough so you can't hear the conversation at the next table. "I love their Sangria," said Mr. Gay Vaquero 2010 Ray Arzate. "Oh, yeah. Their food is delicious too." The menu is mostly Spanish dishes in small portions meant to be shared. Expect to pay \$5 - \$10 per dish for empanadas, potato "tortilla," grilled octopus, stuffed dates wrapped in bacon, lamb skewers and many others. For the less adventurous, they offer stake and a few other entrees in the \$12 - \$20 range. The food really is top notch, well-worth the 20 - 40 minute wait you can expect on most weekends.

BOUGAINVILLEA CAFÉ

at Terrible's Hotel Casino, 4100 Paradise Rd., 24 hrs.

Need some food to soak up the alcohol before you can drive home? If you're partying in the Fruit Loop, this is the place to go. Not for exceptional food or decor but because it's an affordable option about half a mile from the bars. Strut and stumble your way along Paradise Road and up the stairs for some cheap chow. If you're an out-and-proud recessionista, sign up for their player's club to get a \$2.99 breakfast special with pancakes, eggs and bacon. They also offer \$9.99 steak dinner specials. Without the player's card, expect to pay \$5 - \$15 for most entrees.

REPUBLIC KITCHEN & BAR,

9470 S. Eastern Ave., 9:30 a.m. - 2 a.m.wknds

This place opened six months ago in the locale that previously housed Fado Irish Pub, a couple of blocks south of the I-215, and it's already become a trendy gathering spot. "It's one of my favorite places to go eat or have drinks with friends," said Brent Cullen, a stylist at nearby Ritual Salon & Spa. "I love the creative menu and the cozy, chill atmosphere." The specialty here are classics with a twist, such as Kobe beef corn dogs, 3 cheese & Mac, turkey or meat loaf "TV dinners" complete with a mini cobbler, lobster pot pie and a sautéed chicken breast in lemon sauce that is heavenly. Expect to pay \$14 - \$20 for most entrees. The drink menu is just as unique, including Chipotle or Cucumber-Lime Margaritas as well as 20 types of draft beer. Check out their Sunday Jazz Brunch for live music and \$15 all-you-can-drink mimosas.

CAFE MODA

3400 S. Jones Blvd., Open 4 p.m. - 5 a.m. daily

16th of the Strip along Spring Mountain Rd. for delicious Philippine cuisine and maybe some ballroom dancing in a relaxed, unpretentious setting. The house specialty is Sisig, a dish made with chopped fried pork or chicken and served in a sizzling plate that you can hear coming all the way from the kitchen to your table. The menu also includes oxtail soup, several types of noodles, fried tilapia, the thin lumpia egg rolls made with seasoned meat and a few "mainstream" items such as Angus Beef Sliders and Teriyaki Chicken. You can expect to pay \$8 - \$12 for most entrees. This place attracts older amateur and professional dancers on Mondays and Thursdays, when the music is an eclectic mix of 70's hits, Salsa, country ballads and even a few tangos. You can also karaoke your heart out every day after midnight. ■





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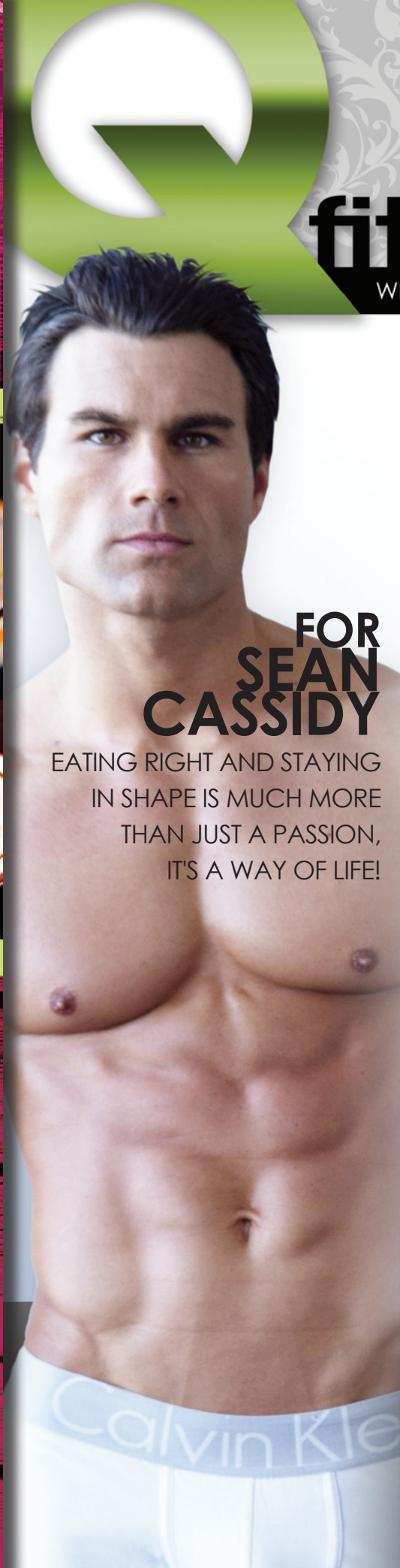
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WITH SEAN CASSIDY

He has been a health and fitness fanatic since his early teens. Now Sean has decided to share his tips and tricks about getting in shape with the world. Cassidy was born in Philadelphia, PA. Early on in life, he developed a love of fitness and physical activity that would serve as a foundation for all his future accomplishments.

Following his high school graduation, Cassidy decided to further his academic studies and attend college. While pursuing an education in criminal justice, Cassidy still managed to follow his intense fitness regimen. At just 19 years old, Sean landed his first magazine cover. Since that first appearance when he was in his teens, Sean has appeared on the covers of a slew of well-known fitness publications. Over the past few years, his face and physique have been featured on the front of Muscle and Fitness, Fitness RX, Exercise for Men, and Men's Exercise.

Today, Sean is founder of seancassidy.net and helps people live a leaner form and healthier life. Seancassidy.net is a world wide fitness training website.

"I upload new instructional workout video's every month. There is a diet plan that helps me stay in shape as well as suggestions to help you to build your own plan. I also list my favorite supplements on the market today and I do a live chat with all the members every month," says Sean. ■





SEAN'S FAVORITE FITNESS TIPS:

80% of how you look is what you put into your body. 10% is what you do at the gym. The other 10% is genetics. Diet is the most important part when getting in shape.

Remember: Abs are made in the kitchen!

My favorite type of work out is high intensity, where you keep your heart rate up the whole time to burn a lot of calories, which helps to get lean. I do so many different types of workouts, but high intensity is definitely my favorite.

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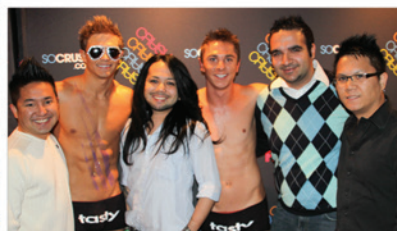
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A photograph of two men sitting at an outdoor table, smiling and talking. The man on the left is wearing a dark grey button-down shirt, and the man on the right is wearing a colorful striped short-sleeved shirt. They are holding drinks. In the background, other people are seated at tables under umbrellas.

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HOT CHOCOLATE

COVER STORY

BY RICHARD DAVIS

WHAT DOES HOT CHOCOLATE (LARRY EDWARDS), WHO CREATES THE ILLUSION OF TINA TURNER IN "DIVAS LAS VEGAS," THE STRIP'S LONGEST-RUNNING FEMALE IMPERSONATOR REVIEW, DO IN HIS SPARE TIME? "I WORK SEVEN DAYS A WEEK!" LAUGHS EDWARDS. "WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY SPARE TIME? I SLEEP!"





The long-time Las Vegas resident is as busy off-stage as on, donating his talents to support the AIDS Walk and Golden Rainbow. Edwards was honored as Pride Grand Marshall in 2010. Edwards works for USA Host, a destination company for corporate travelers and he was awarded Key to the City in 2005 as one of Las Vegas' foremost goodwill ambassadors. He also serves as mood director and VIP host at Piranha 8 1/2. "I direct the mood of the club by creating festive energy," he says. How festive can he be after dancing two performances of "Divas" in size 12 spiked heels? "I've got big feet," Edwards says.

Edwards says, "People see two different images of me, Larry and Hot Chocolate." He says his drag persona is "a job and not a lifestyle." "Some guys can't handle dating a man who dresses up like a woman for his work," he says, while others want his professional life to cross over into his personal life. "I'm actually very shy off-stage," he says. "My make-up is like a mask. When I am onstage I can hide behind my mask."

Edwards is handsome, with eyes that have an exotic Asian slant, and a body that can be convincingly transformed into Tina Turner. The late Hedy Jo Star helped him to achieve the look of those famous Turner legs by cutting the hip curves on his costumes higher than natural, creating the illusion of length. Edwards works

with his own bone structure to capture Turner's contoured cheeks. He says, "Her skin complexion is lighter than mine and so I need to use a lighter base."

Edwards says, "I must exaggerate the look in order to be read as 'real' by the audience." He says, "I am only doing a portrayal of her performance on stage." Although he can sing, he lip-synchs Turner's songs. He says, "It would be too hard to dance and pull off her character and also try to hit her high notes!" Edwards says he met Turner only once after she made an appearance on Oprah.

Edwards finds his balance spiritually through Buddhism. He says, "I do Buddhist chant to bring about the things I want and I pray for the things I need." Through Buddhist practice he seeks "to do the right thing." He was raised Methodist in Fort Myers, Florida, by a father who was a grocer and a mother who enjoyed dance and theater. "I was my father's only son and he saw a different future for me than I saw for myself." Edwards says his mother was "very supportive from early on. She was at the pageant when I won Miss Gay America." He says, "When my father saw that I was respected professionally, that I made a good living at what I did, he came around." He brought the house down when he quipped on Sally Jesse Raphael, "My daddy's home wondering why I'm wearing his dress."

"As a child, I was always fascinated by make-up, acting and costumes," Edwards says. Coming of age in the disco era, he wanted to be different from most female impersonators at the time who were ballad singers. He says, "I wanted to be high energy, performing disco hits." The famous 70's drag performer Sylvester was a close friend. Edwards says, "Sylvester was one of the first drag performers to go mainstream."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 42



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FRIDAY MAY 20TH – Rodeo School, Horseman's Park 9am. (For those of you who have always wanted to compete, but didn't know how to get started). Register online at www.bighornrodeo.com. Wes Wilkinson, Rob Somers & Bob Buenfil, Instructors.

FRIDAY MAY 20TH - Arena Crew Coordinator Class, Horseman's Park. Learn how to set up and measure for all events. Heather Murray & Kim Dawson Instructors.

FRIDAY MAY 20TH – BigHorn Rodeo Pool Party Hosted by Victoria London, HomoRodeo.com Meet & Greet and Model Search hosted by Mr. NGRA Chris Reynolds & Guests. Eastside Cannery Hotel 1:00pm till 8:00

FRIDAY MAY 20TH – Contestant Registration, One Six Sky Lounge, Eastside Cannery. 6:00pm – 9:00pm

FRIDAY MAY 20TH – Cocktails, Dance, Boot Barn Fashion Show & Silent Auction. One Six Sky Lounge, Eastside Cannery 6pm - 12am (FREE IF YOU HAVE BADGE, PURCHASE YOUR WEEKEND PASS, ONLY \$20, GETS YOU IN DANCE AND BOTH DAYS OF RODEO)

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SATURDAY MAY 21ST - IGRA Show at Charlie's 9:00pm

SUNDAY MAY 22ND - Rodeo all day. Dancing, Entertainment and Vendors in the huge tent, exciting rodeo action all day in the arena. Rodeo starts at 9:00am. Horseman's Park

SUNDAY MAY 22ND – Awards ceremony & BBQ. BBQ is \$8.00 & Starts at 7:00pm, awards are at 8:00pm. Horseman's Park

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CHRIS GIUNCHIGLIANI

RUNNING FOR MAYOR

by William Bessette

This year certainly has seen quite an entertaining field of people throw their name and prestige behind being the mayor of Las Vegas, with a crowded field of 18 vying for the spot after twelve years of total domination by Oscar Goodman; a period of time in which many would rightfully say much good has happened. Sadly, many will no longer be able to associate the letter "V" with the 80's Sci-Fi TV show and recent remake, or as an international symbol for peace; no, it shall forever signify Victor... for Las Vegas. The energy certainly has provided a reminder that despite the recent ills, there are plenty of people out there who still want to advocate for the (potential?) greatness of "our fair city."

With the initial race over, now two face in a run off for the ultimate prize: Chris Giunchigliani and Carolyn Goodman. In the interest of providing a fair platform for both candidates to get their message across, we invited both of them to speak with us regarding the race and the issues, at their convenience. While Chris Giunchigliani graciously accepted the invitation, unfortunately we were unable to secure the same from Mrs. Goodman, despite repeated requests. We hope Mrs. Goodman will soon be feeling able to meet with the public again regarding the important issues that face the city she fights to represent.

Chris Giunchigliani has lived in Las Vegas for over three decades, coming here soon after graduating college. She has been a public servant in multiple capacities for much of the time that she has lived here and has much to say regarding the history of this city and the potential of its future.

W: Every vote certainly counts doesn't it? After eking out a 15 vote win over Larry Brown...

C: Absolutely. If you think about it, I am kind of the comeback kid. I was one of the last people to get into the race while most everyone else has been campaigning since June or September. So, in eight weeks I was able to come in second, I think it was a phenomenal feat and definitely speaks to the fact that every vote counts,

which has always been my message, not just about voting, but that every individual person counts. I think we tried to emulate that throughout the campaign. How can we bring people that normally aren't a part of the process into the campaign and into the process? That's what I want to do as Mayor.

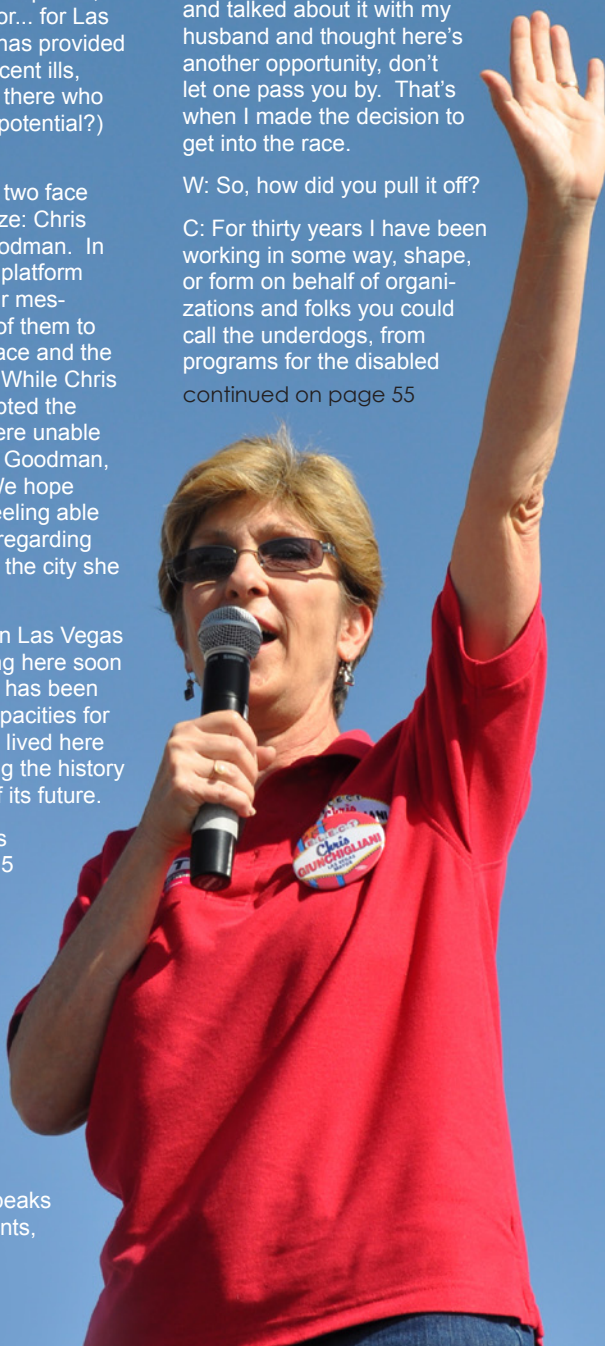
W: Why were you one of the last to jump in?

C: I had just gotten re-elected with about seventy percent of the vote to my second term on the [County] Commission, so I really hadn't looked at it until over the holidays when I had neighbors, friends and folks that I respect a great deal say, 'You know, no one in this race has the experience or excitement or quality that you do and we would like for you to consider running.' So I thought about it over the holidays and then sat down and talked about it with my husband and thought here's another opportunity, don't let one pass you by. That's when I made the decision to get into the race.

W: So, how did you pull it off?

C: For thirty years I have been working in some way, shape, or form on behalf of organizations and folks you could call the underdogs, from programs for the disabled

continued on page 55



HOT CHOCOLATE CONTINUED



Edwards shares what it is like to be backstage before a performance of "Divas Las Vegas."

"We're in a big room, everyone is in various stages of dress. We're like a family. It can get bitchy, but we respect each other." Edwards says the show at the Imperial Palace is better than ever. "I know we've done a good show when the straight husband who is dragged in by his wife with crossed arms, at the end is laughing louder than his wife."

Aside from his own female persona, Hot Chocolate, and his signature illusion, Tina Turner, Edwards has also performed as Patti LaBelle in the Sandra Bullock comedy, "Miss Congeniality II," and as Aretha Franklin and Pearl Bailey. "Divas Las Vegas" star Frank Marino persuaded a reluctant Edwards to do a parody of Beyoncé's "Single Ladies" video and it has become an audience favorite.

And whom does this eligible bachelor snuggle up with when he comes home at 6:00 a.m.? Sydney, his Sheltie. One of Edwards' Facebook pictures shows the two in Tina Turner wigs.

As for the future, Edwards suggests a reality TV show, "Behind the Queens," a sneak peak backstage at a Las Vegas drag show. ■

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**For more information regarding Rodeo School on May 20th and
BigHorn Rodeo 14 go to bighornrodeo.com**





RIBBON OF LIFE

25TH ANNIVERSARY

by Randy Slovacek

This year celebrates the 25th anniversary of Golden Rainbow, which annually asks members of the Las Vegas entertainment community to give of their time and talent in order to assist men, women, and children living in Clark County whose lives are affected with the HIV and AIDS virus.

Golden Rainbow's 'Ribbon of Life' is one of the largest and most celebrated fund raising events to be held in Las Vegas. Last year's event raised \$175,000 and in the 24 years of its existence Ribbon of Life has raised \$3,600,000 to help those in need. Over 600 Clark county residents are served through Golden Rainbow's programs annually.

This year the event is headed up by Pietra Sardelli, Vice President of Golden Rainbow, and directed by Chris Coaley, Shannon Hardin and Barry Morgan. When asked about the initial coordination of the production, both Pietra Sardelli and Chris Coaley say that often the planning for next year begins the day after the event itself. The first hurdle faced by the production team is securing the venue each time. Sometimes this can be as late as just a few months before the performance itself.

Once a location is secured, the process for putting together a show that has over 300 participants – including directors, choreographers, designers, and volunteers – begins with a tour of the venue. Ms. Sardelli says "The challenge for the show's directors is getting on the stage for the first walk through and finding out what we have access to in terms of sets, lighting, dressing rooms and actual stage space. It's an exercise in defining the art of the possible?"

Once the initial walk through has occurred and the year's theme has been determined (which this year is "Broadway & Hollywood"), the directors begin to go through submissions and planning the ultimate structure for the show taking into account many factors such as how well ideas fit into the theme of the show, how creative the submission is, and the number of large group acts and solos.

Of the submission process, Chris Coaley says, "the hardest thing is telling some people who submitted an idea 'sorry, we can't use you this year.' I hope it resonates that we appreciate it and that they submit again. Often it has to do with music choice. We may get three submissions with West Side Story material and we can only use one. Also, being considerate of the performers who have other performances to get to that night, the guests at the event and the venue itself requires us to consider time limits. We've learned that two acts can be a detriment." This year the producers aim for a maximum show time of 90 minutes. Coaley stresses, however, that the production team is always conscious of including new directors, choreographers and talent.

Once the show's acts have been chosen, Coaley, Hardin and Morgan coordinate with each individual director or choreographer to help make each act and the show as a whole, as successful as possible. Says Coaley, "We pull all the tech aspects together. Each venue gives us a different kind of show. So we have to figure out how to create the right show to fit the venue. We work directly with the lighting designer; we create the flow of the show and how the show transitions from one number to the next. Then there's the backstage logistics – fitting people into dressing rooms, planning tech schedules and dress rehearsals." Another responsibility is developing the opening and finale of the show. With this year being the 25th anniversary, there are plans to create a retrospective of the history of the event.

An additional concern is actual time in the venue to rehearse. According to Sardelli "last year we only had two days in the theater including the performance day. What impressed me the most was working with these professionals who popped into place and figured it out. This year we are looking at having four days to rehearse and tech the show, including performance day."

When asked if there was a special moment from the past 25 years Chris answers "Every year has its moment. The most emotional time for me is the initial gathering of the entire cast. We sit them down and ask 'why are you here?' We hope this year to take people back to why this whole thing started. In the 80s, people wouldn't go on stage and touch you if they found out (a person had HIV). Wardrobe would burn costumes after someone passed away. The fear factor was huge. A lot of the younger people don't know the history."

When asked if he ever gets nervous during the process, Chris says, "I wouldn't say 'nervous.' At the opening curtain, I get excited. Once the president comes out and introduces the show, we all get on headset, take a deep breath and say 'here we go.'"

Golden Rainbow's "Ribbon Of Life" will be at Paris Las Vegas, June 26th at 1pm. ■



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Get ready for summer because Eduadro Cordova Presents will launch Sun-skissed pool party every Sunday with an afternoon brunch at the hippest new boutique Las Vegas has to offer. Since opening last July Rumor has become one of the most talked about boutique hotels in Las Vegas. Conveniently located near the "Fruitloop" with its sexy, sultry and totally clean hip look, it could pass as an "all-gay" hotel with a Palm Springs vibe. Rumor features some powerful combinations of compelling elements: hot location, cool pool, zero attitude, modern rooms and unexpected amenities all in a unique boutique hotel setting.

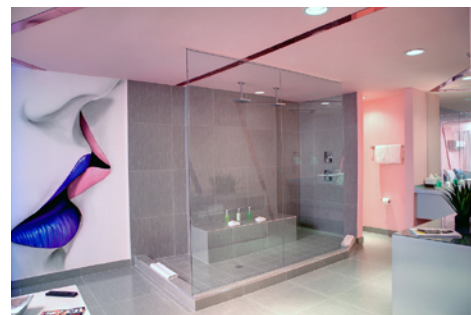
There is a sense of wonderment and delight as soon as the guest enters the 10-foot glass doors, revealing a stunning display of original work setting the tone for what is to come. A departure from the impersonal and vast typical casino lobby, RUMOR's lobby has an ultra-lounge feel and is awash in soothing ivory with white tones accented with an injection of criss-crossing metallic lines on the paved floor creating a sense of subtle movement and dynamics.

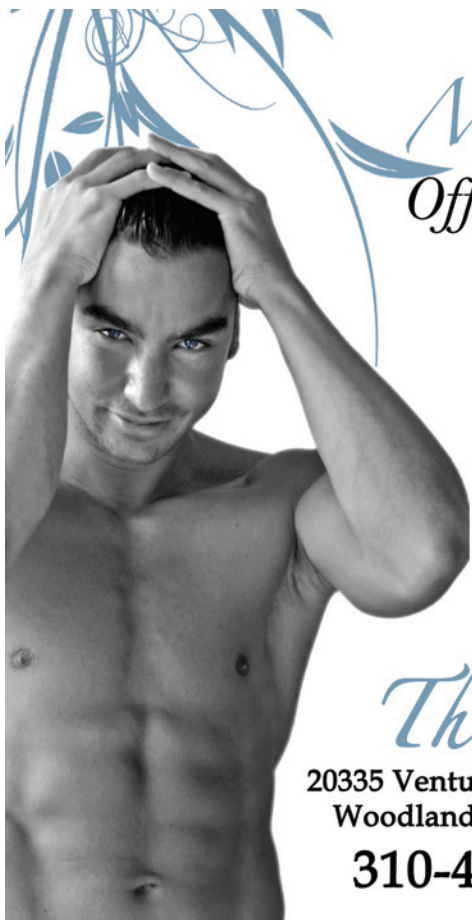
Addiction: Incorporating classic dishes with a modern flair, the "addictive" cuisine is available for breakfast, lunch, dinner and room service. Décor is also sleek with a clever hot pink knife, fork and spoon adorning the wall.

A private dining room seats 12 and is garnished with dripping chandeliers and anchored with an oversized high communal table.

Completely unique to RUMOR is the courtyard with its signature pool area; wet deck and lawn, framed with matured swaying palm trees. By night, it transforms into a magical hideaway with DJs spinning and live musicians performing under flickering lights. RUMOR welcomes pets, offering an outdoor dog run and in the suite: customized bowls and plush dog beds.

Out of RUMOR's 150 suites, 75 face into the courtyard featuring a balcony or a patio, creating an amazingly interactive social scene not found anywhere in Las Vegas. Corridor walls are adorned with cool decals and are superbly complemented by the houndstooth carpet pattern. The suites create an instant dream-like aura as guests are greeted with captivating gray-hued walls/carpet and feature a splash of playful lavender patterns. A carved wall medallion strategically situated above the bed enhances the magical mood and vibe of the suite. The suites boast additional funky features - a basket of sugar confections, Warhol-ish chandelier art, and are well appointed with sleek furniture. Nearly half of all suites showcase an oversized tub surrounded by mirrors complete with scented bubble bath for some private late night pleasure. ■





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702-205-2265
www.AmericanCatholicChurch.net

American Lung Association in Nevada
3552 W. Cheyenne Ave., Ste. 130
North LV, NV 89032 • 702-431-6333
www.lungnevada.org

Better Time Events Inc. (Better Birthdays)
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1120 Almond Tree Ln., Ste. 207
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www.cccofsn.org

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Gay and Lesbian Community Center
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Human Rights Campaign – Las Vegas
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RUNNING FOR MAYOR CONTINUED

to programs for the elderly, and I don't just join a board to be on it, I actively participate. I worked with the LGBT community for thirty years. I've worked actively with children's organizations, environmental organizations, and youth groups, and I was on a commission for seniors and long term care and quality of life. We didn't have the millions of dollars that the Goodmans and Victor had, for example. We had to budget very frugally, so we relied a great deal on people just taking the time to walk with me or go door to door in their various neighborhoods.

W: You mentioned working with the LGBT community. What are some of your accomplishments there?

C: Well, let's see, we can go back to Lori Brown when she was in the Senate and she put in legislation to repeal the Sodomy Act. We worked very, very hard and were able to get that passed. That was when it was kind of a conservative legislator and governor. I've been a member of Stonewall for ten or twelve years and have been a treasurer of the club. I was on the teacher's union when a teacher was unfairly terminated because he had AIDS. We took that on and went to the school board and

organized parents in support of him. One of my neighbors is one of the oldest gay bars in town, over there at Snick's.

W: There has been a big focus on downtown in the past few years. Where would you steer the direction of Las Vegas if you were to become mayor?

C: I am a huge proponent of a strong downtown. You have to have a strong downtown core that permeates throughout the city. I would do it in a different way, however. I would have more of a plan on what businesses are going to come down and how to invite them, rather than a plop, plop, fizz, fizz approach. You have to focus on the neighborhoods that surround your downtown core. Some have been neglected, middle-class and minority. We need to refocus our energy to make sure that we have a strong base to support the revitalization of downtown, the revitalization of our entire valley, really. We have to work together.

The Las Vegas Mayoral race will be held on June 7th. For more information on Chris Giunchigliani, please visit chrigformayor.com. ■

SHADARI MOON PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOGRAPHER
CARISSA RAMIREZ
702.235.3419

THAT'S SO VEGAS

WE WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE OUR FAVORITE LAS VEGAS PEEPS: A HANDFUL OF LAS VEGAS LOCALS WHO REPRESENT OUR WONDERFUL COMMUNITY. FIND OUT WHY THEY ARE "SO VEGAS".



**MICHAEL CAPRIO, PRESIDENT:
CAPRIO MEDIA DESIGN**

Michael's highly successful PR firm is based in Las Vegas, with clients ranging from Grammy Award winners Olivia Newton-John and Jon Secada to the iconic men of Chippendales at the Rio All-Suite Hotel and Casino. As an out and proud member of the community, Caprio donates his considerable skills and expertise for various community charities. He loves calling the entertainment capital of the world, Las Vegas, home, making him So Vegas!

**CHRIS SALDAÑA, ANCHOR:
REPORTER 8 NEWS NOW**

"Las Vegas has quickly become one of the news capitals of the world. From Paris Hilton to OJ Simpson, I stay busy. But what's most rewarding are the true people of this community. The sincere, hard working ones who are trying to survive in a sluggish economy, the students who are fighting for no cuts, and a better education. The list goes on, but this is what makes me So Vegas, telling their stories everyday."



**CHARLES BERAUD,
PUBLIC AFFAIRS COORDINATOR: CIRQUE DU SOLEIL**

"What's 'So Vegas' about my life is what I do for a living – working for Cirque du Soleil which, with seven shows on the Strip, is VERY Vegas – and the community that so generously embraced me. How lucky I am to get to work with such dedicated individuals through HRC and on The Center's Honorarium and ARTrageous events? Where I have had the awesome joy of sharing the stage with such awe-inspiring and talented people in RagTag Entertainment's Jekyll & Hyde and RENT, with proceeds benefiting local organizations? This magazine is a prime example of how being Vegas is articulated through an active, positive and supportive presence in the community. For them to include me in this list – and in such awesome company – is very cool. By those standards, I am very proudly 'So Vegas' indeed."



**AMY HOAEAE, OWNER:
JUST YOU HOME OF GLAMOUR BOUTIQUE**

"Most people come to Vegas to gamble, party, vacation and sometimes work. My clients come to dress; to be that person they always wanted to be for a day or a weekend in a friendly environment without judgment of prejudice. At 'Just You Home of Glamour Boutique' I help these individuals make their dreams and fantasies come true. Now That's So Vegas."





**KATHERINE SCHNEIDER, OWNER:
KITTYBAR LESBIAN CLUB**

"Over 10,000 Lesbians currently reside in Las Vegas and I am determined to bring us together through social and nightlife events! Entertainment, along with gambling, built Las Vegas' reputation as a playland getaway of the world. My father owned Dirty Sally's Discotheque on Las Vegas Boulevard in the 70's and my mother was a showgirl in Jubilee. Keeping the "Vegas" party going, I opened KittyBar Nightclub on the Strip, a playland for Lesbians every Saturday night."

**RICK HANSEN-RAYMEN, OWNER:
VEGASDRAG.COM**

"As a past I.S.R.C. XVII of Portland, LGBT volunteer, fundraiser and activist, I enjoy participating and supporting the community. It has inspired me to launch my newest, "So Vegas" job, vegasDRag.com. The Entertainers and Fan's Social Network. VegasDrag.com is my dream of a place for alternative performers from all over the world to come together, support and promote our various forms of art and entertainment in a positive, supportive virtual community. Ya gotta love Las Vegas."



**DIANA PRINCE (AKA JON JONES)
AND KC GOLIGHTLY, MISS AND MR.
LAS VEGAS PRIDE 2011**

These titles were appointed to them by the SNAPI Board of Directors because of their dedication to Las Vegas Pride and the countless hours they spent volunteering over the past year. The titles are earned through hard work, rather than won in a pageant.

**EDUARDO CORDOVA,
PROMOTER LOCALITES MEDIA**

"Whats 'So Vegas' about my job? I am a big gay promoter in Las Vegas. I try to create the best Vegas nightlife or daylife experience for anyone attending my events. I always push the envelope and keep surprising people with new venues, new events, bigger performers, bigger production, great service and of course hot boys! I always try to give back to our LGBT community and partner up with local organizations to create really fun and memorable events. I love what I do and I always like to hear when people enjoy any of my events, that is what keeps me going!"



**RICK JORDAN, TALENT ENGAGEMENT SUPERVISOR:
COSMOPOLITAN LAS VEGAS**

"The art of engagement: Getting to know great people, being passionate and proud. At the Cosmopolitan, we knew we wanted to be different, but a different that matters and that difference shows in our CoStars. We started searching for Talent to fill our beautiful space and bring it to life and that's where my job came into play. I had the privilege of meeting hundreds and hundreds of potential CoStars all of whom wanted to join our community from engineers to bakers to dealers to mixologists. Our resort is full of engaging, amazing CoStars, ready to delight each and every guest who walks through our doors making what I do, 'a different So Vegas'."



**LAURA SCOTT, DIRECTOR:
NGRA BIG HORN RODEO**

"I asked myself what makes Gay Rodeo 'So Vegas'? Finally I realized how simple an answer that was: diversity. You can watch women ride bulls, men barrel race, drag queens entertain the crowds and in the mix, you will find little boys and girls hoping one day to be that Cowboy or Cowgirl. That's Gay and that's 'So Vegas', diverse and entertaining."



	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8½ and PIRANHA 4633 Paradise Rd. 702-791-0100	El Seseo Latin Night DJs Vago & Auner Las Sirenas 12a	Circus DJ Mikey Swift \$10 Liquor Bust	La Noche w/DJ Vago Sirenas Show 2a	Lingerie & Lace A Ladies Only Event	Boystown Liquor Bust DJs Mikey Swift & Chris Adams	Visit piranhavegas.com for details	Sex Saturdays DJ/VJ Scott K & DJ K Drag Show 11:30p
BACKDOOR 1415 E. Charleston Ave. 702-385-2018	Noches Nortenas (Latin Country Night) 9p - 2a	Karaoke Night 2-4-1 Drinks 10p - 4a	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Drinks 10a - Noon	Underwear Night 2-4-1 Drinks 10p - 4a	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Drinks 10a - Noon	Noches Latina (Latin Night) 10p - 6a	Noches Latina (Latin Night) 10p - 6a
BADLANDS SALOON 953 E. Sahara Ave. 702-792-9262	\$3.50 Beer Bust 9p - Midnight	Happy Hour 2-4-1 4p - 7p	Happy Hour 2-4-1 4p - 7p	Happy Hour 2-4-1 4p - 7p	Happy Hour 2-4-1 4p - 7p	\$5 Liquor Bust 7p - Midnight	\$5 Beer Bust 7p - Midnight
CHARLIE'S LAS VEGAS 5012 E. Arville St. 702-876-1844	\$5 Beer Bust 4-7p \$2 Long Isl. 7p - Mid Sunday Show 9pm	Beginner Dance Lessons 7-9pm and Ginger Grant 10pm	Drag Queen Bingo 9p Happy Hour 2a-10a	Underwear Night Gogo Boys Free Pool from 9p	1/2 price Drink Night 9p-12a, Line Dance Lessons 7p-9p	Line Dance Lessons 7-9p \$1.75 Happy Hour 7-9p \$10 Liquor Bust 9p-12a	\$1.75 happy hour 7-9p \$5 Beer Bust 9p-12a
CREWS'N 1000 E. Sahara, Ste. 105 702-731-0951	Happy Hour 2-7p 2 for 1 Well and Draft	Sing along with pianist Piermarini 4-7p Happy Hour 2-7p	Happy Hour 2-7p Karaoke 8-11p Every other Tuesday	Happy Hour 2-7p 2 for 1 Well and Draft	Happy Hour 2-7p 2 for 1 Well and Draft	Happy Hour 2-7p Kitty Litter Show 11p & 1a	Happy Hour 2-7p 2 for 1 Well and Draft
ENTOURAGE VEGAS 953 E. Sahara Ave. 702-650-9191	Open 24 Hours Salsa Sundays Latin music & videos	Open 24 Hours Boys Night Ages 18-21 in free	Open 24 Hours Dark Night All lights are off	Open 24 Hours Wise Wednesdays Ages 40+ get in free	Open 24 Hours Inked Show off your tats	Open 24 Hours Freebie Fridays Exciting giveaways	Open 24 Hours Packed House Our busiest night
ESCAPE LOUNGE 4213 W. Sahara Ave. 702-364-1167	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a/5-7p Karaoke 9p-1a	Poker Tournament 6, 7:30 & 9p No buy in!	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a and 5-7p	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a and 5-7p	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a and 5-7p	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a and 5-7p	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a and 5-7p
FLEX 4371 W. Charleston Ave. 702-385-FLEX	Happy Hour 4-7p	DJ Panda 9pm Drink Specials All Night Long	DJ K Spins \$7 Liquor Bust 10p-2a	The Grand Tea Room Desirae Penda'vis 1a	The Boom Room with DJ K & Austin Toxxx 12a	Confessions with JewDi Vine and DJ Ricoché 11p	Fab-u-Lash with Des'ree St. James or Dream with Shaylavie
FREEZONE 610 E. Naples Dr. 702-794-2300	Karaoke Happy Hour 4 - 8p Beer Bust 8p - 1a	Karaoke Happy Hour 4 - 8p Beer Bust 8p - 1a	Ladies Night Happy Hour 4 - 8p Beer/Lick-Her-Bust 8p - 1a	Beer Bust 8p - 1a Wicked Wednesdays 11:30p-1:30a	Boys Night Beer Bust 9:30p - 2a \$7 Liquor Bust	Queens of Las Vegas Show/Dance Party Beer Bust 8p - 1a	Queens of Las Vegas Show/Dance Party Beer Bust 4-8pm
FUN HOG RANCH 495 E. Twain 702-791-7001	\$5 Beer Bust 6-9pm	Happy Hour 3-7p \$1.50 Long Island Iced Teas 9p-2a	Happy Hour 3-7p \$5 Beer Bust 9p-2a	Happy Hour 3-7p \$1.50 Margaritas 9p-2a	Happy Hour 3-7p \$5 Beer Bust 9p-2a	Happy Hour 3-7p	Come in, drink up and just have a great time.
THE GARAGE 1487 E. Flamingo 702-440-6333	2-4-1 All Drinks 4pm-7	\$5 Domestic Beer Bust 9pm-Midnight 2-4-1 All Drinks 4pm-7	2-4-1 All Drinks 4pm-7	\$5 Domestic Beer Bust 9pm-Midnight 2-4-1 All Drinks 4pm-7	2-4-1 All Drinks 4pm-7	\$5 Domestic Beer Bust 9pm-Midnight 2-4-1 All Drinks 4pm-7	2-4-1 All Drinks 4pm-7
GIPSY 4605 Paradise Rd. 702-666-8661	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Ghostmachine DJs Protokol & Romeo Romantic
GOODTIMES 1775 E. Tropicana Ave. 702-736-9494	Fuego Latino 8p with Liquor Bust	"In the Trenches" comedy show with Schree & Baby 8p	Meet friends, drink, game and play pool!	Karaoke with Sheila 9p-1a Carpe Noctem 9p-4a	Sinabar Disco with \$10 Liquor Bust 10p	Vaquero Night with \$10 Liquor Bust 10p	Noche Caliente "Hot Night" 10p
KRAVE LAS VEGAS Harmon Ave. at LV Blvd. 702-836-0830	Not Serious Sundays with DJ PA in the Krave Lounge	Meat Market Mondays with guest porn stars nearly-naked go-go's	Tyler Caiden's Monster \$3 wells/\$5 premiums DJ PA spins	WTF? Wednesdays DJ Earwaxxx 11pm Win up to \$1000	Back to the '80s with VJ Crime and Des. St. James	F%@k You I'm Fabulous \$5 drinks with text DJ Silence	World-class DJs in main room and Girl Bar in lounge
LAS VEGAS EAGLE 3430 E. Tropicana Ave. 702-458-8662	\$5 Well or Draft Bust 12 - 5p and 10p - 2a	Monday Night Football with Brett	Karaoke with Mark & Brett 7p	Jock Strap and Underwear Night 7p - 3a	\$5 Well or Draft Bust 12 - 5p and 10p - 2a	Jock Strap and Underwear Night 7p - 3a	\$5 Well or Draft Bust 12 - 5p and 10p - 2a
SNICK'S PLACE 3rd St. off Las Vegas Blvd. 702-385-9298	Open 24 Hours	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	\$5 Beer Bust and \$6 Liquor Bust 9p - Midnight
SPOTLIGHT LOUNGE 957 E. Sahara Ave. 702-696-0202	\$1.50 Bloody Marys 8a - 4p \$5 Beer Bust 4 - 7p	\$5 Beer Bust Noon - 4p 2-4-1 9p - Midnight	\$5 Beer Bust Noon - 4p 2-4-1 9p - Midnight	Hump Day \$1.50 Well Screws or Margaritas 8a - 4p	Come hang out at the Spotlight Lounge	\$5 Liquor Bust 1 - 4p \$5 Beer Bust 8 - 11p	\$5 Beer Bust 12 - 3p Couples Night 6 - 9p Jock Night Mid - 3a

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Twice a month (and always on holiday weekends), DJ Lisa Pittman hosts this party "for girls who like girls" with plenty of hot DJs and other guests. Visit www.lesbianslasvegas.com.

HIV & TUBERCULOSIS

BY RICHARD DAVIS

"Think TB" is the slogan of the new Tuberculosis (TB) Clinic at the Southern Nevada Health District that opened on World TB Day on March 24th. Haley Blake, a disease investigation and intervention specialist with the clinic, said, "We treat patients and do contact investigations to make sure no one else gets sick." Most clinic services are free.

Blake said Clark County has 80-100 cases of TB every year, the highest in the state. Opposite the national trend, local TB rates are going up. One reason, Blake said, is our large immigrant population from countries with high TB rates. Other risk factors for TB infection include foreign travel, incarceration, or close contact with someone who has active TB disease. HIV and diabetes are also risk factors. There is no effective vaccine.

TB is an air-borne germ and can be caught from someone coughing or sneezing. Normally, infection requires close contact with someone with active TB disease in their lungs, such as a family member. Dormant TB infection is not contagious. Sunlight kills the germ; there is no danger from contaminated surfaces or hand-to-hand contact. TB is not spread by sharing food utensils, cigarettes

or saliva when kissing. On-going exposure poses the greatest risk, not casual encounters.

Treatment for active TB disease consists of four medications taken for a minimum of six months, depending upon the severity of the infection and other co-morbidities, such as HIV. Once treatment starts, if the patient doesn't take the medicine properly or prematurely ends treatment, drug-resistant strains of the disease can develop which require longer or more intensive treatment. Because drug-resistant TB is a serious health threat to the community, patients being treated for active TB infection must be observed taking their medication—this is called DOT or directly observed therapy.

Although dormant TB infection is not contagious, treatment to prevent it from becoming active disease is strongly encouraged, Blake said, especially for those with co-morbidities such as HIV. Blake said, "Six per cent of active TB patients also have HIV." She said, "For people with HIV, TB is an opportunistic infection. Those with HIV are more likely to have an abnormal presentation of the disease and active disease may be harder to

diagnose and treat, which is why it is important to treat it preventatively." Preventative treatment involves taking a daily medication for nine months.

A person with active disease may feel weak, experience weight loss, and have fever or night sweats. If the TB disease is in the lungs, a person may have a persistent cough, chest pain or cough up blood. A person with active disease is contagious. Other symptoms may occur if the disease manifests in other parts of the body. A person with dormant TB infection does not feel sick and is not contagious.

Testing for TB infection consists of a simple TB skin or blood test. Blake said that yearly testing is recommended for those at high risk, such as those with HIV. Andrew Evanski, prevention education supervisor at Aid for AIDS Nevada said, "Whether its HIV or TB, know your status." Craig Cutright, director of community initiatives at the American Lung Association in Nevada said, "Get tested and get treated."

Richard Davis is a program coordinator with the American Lung Association in Nevada and is a contributing writer for QVegas. ■



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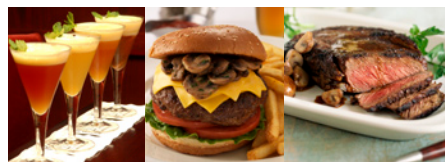
First impression of Morton's reminded me of a mafia house. Walk in the first door and you have a choice of 3 others. (make sure you know the secret password: "Big hunks of meat") Once inside, I could have sworn "The Stan and Karen Walker" family was seated right next to us. I wasn't really sure though because I never saw his face... just the back of his head. Rosario was there at the next table, Member's Only jacket included.

The sexiest thing about Morton's is the cocktails! We were sucking on them like a Hoover with a purpose. The friendly bar and wait staff knew us by name, but we were a little confused on theirs apparently because each time they came all we could say was "Oh God! Oh God!!" And when we finished, we wiped a bit of cream from our lips and said, "Was it as good for you as it was for me?"

We started the meal off right with Oysters on the half shell. Nothing gets me going like a natural aphrodisiac! Those plus the lobster, shrimp, and crab made for a great appetizer. Next came the main attraction: the two HUGE hunks of meat (which is really what we were waiting for) and TRUST, they didn't disappoint!! Delivering as only grade AAA meat can. When we were finished, we fell back in the chair; covered in sweat and maybe a little meat juice feeling more than completely satisfied!

When we thought we were totally spent and couldn't possibly handle anything more, the friendly, but modestly bossy waiter came up and said, "Oh no! We're not through yet—now sit up and take it like a man!" Handing us each our ample dessert plates, starting round 2 would be equally as orgasmic as the first! Mitch got the soufflé, Syren, the chocolate cake. The waiter was right: it's amazing what your body can take when you put your mind to it. And let's be honest, as in all things; there is a fine line between pleasure and pain!

The atmosphere was completely perfect for the



brief, but amazing love affair of the evening. Dimly lit, plush chairs and benches, ample leg room and oversized tables for PLENTY of room to maneuver. Seriously, what is left for want? There was really little time for conversations. What with stuffing the meat in our mouths it was more an assortment of mumblings, elongated vowel sounds, and the occasional grunt and moan. The perfect evening sounds in my opinion!

We were getting so into the action that the table seated next to us couldn't help but watch and listen. One guy even loosened his tie and I swear his hand disappeared too... we're no exhibitionists—oh wait, we really are—so the observation was welcomed. Although if the pictures end up on any website, I'm going to have to charge royalties. But seriously, move over Paris; our video is MUCH better!

Nothing better than men, and big ole meats: and Morton's has the best in town! When we were finished, I truly needed a cigarette! ■




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GERI JEWELL

By Jamie Morris

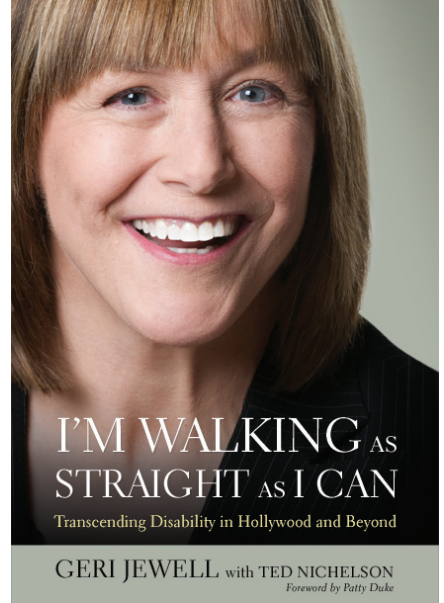
I first met Geri Jewell in 2008 in Los Angeles when she came to see my play "The Facts of Life: The Lost Episode," a parody of the 80s sitcom that made her a household name. As the first person with a disability to have a recurring role on a primetime series, Geri is an icon, a huge part of my teenage television viewing years, and I couldn't believe she was in the audience. Afterwards she stuck around to take photographs with the cast, and to my surprise wanted to be a part of the production. I was beside myself. The final weekend of the show, Geri brought down the house when she tapped the actor playing "Cousin Geri" on the shoulder - a real Tina Fey/Sarah Palin moment - and said, "I've heard of identity theft before but this is ridiculous."

In stand-up comedy circles where Geri got her start, she "killed." Wearing the same t-shirt she wore on "Facts," the letters on her chest reading I DON'T HAVE CEREBRAL PALSY. I'M DRUNK, Geri told the audience with a gleam in her eye, "Cost me 30 cents a letter. Been a helluva lot cheaper if I had polio." I couldn't have been more overwhelmed at the audience's reaction. But the real takeaway for me was that I made a new friend. Last year Geri came to

visit me in Las Vegas and reprised her role at the Onyx Theater. During her visit she edited part of her new book, "I'm Walking as Straight as I Can" (ECW Press), at my house. In it, Geri drops quite a few bombshells including coming out publicly as a lesbian. I recently caught up with my friend on the eve of her TV Land reunion with the girls from "Facts."

First of all, congratulations, the book is fantastic, beautifully written. What's the reaction been?

The reaction so far has been quite positive. I think that my saving grace in this book is the fact that it is very balanced. It is not a "Debbie Downer" and is laced with a lot of humor, and spirituality. I wanted to write a book that told my story without a trashy tell all kind of feel, but at the same time I needed to explain as honestly as I could without crossing boundaries in writing about other people's lives as well. I have wanted to set the record straight for many years, and put the false rumors to rest, and give the true rumors my voice. True rumor, yes, I am gay, but DID NOT have a crush on any of the girls from Facts of Life. I did have a crush on Kristy McNichol though!



If you were given one word to describe each of your "Facts" co-stars...

Charlotte Rae (Mrs. Garrett) humbling, Lisa Welchel (Blair) graceful, Nancy McKeon (Jo) integrity, Mindy Cohn (Natalie) vibrant, Kim Fields (Tootie) classy.

You've been a huge inspiration to people with disabilities for decades. Now the same can be said of you as a role model for gay people everywhere. Are you ready for that responsibility?

I chose to "out" myself decades ago as a person with a disability, now I am outing myself again as a gay woman. What I learned from the first time around, is that I will never please everyone, and that I am a human being with weaknesses and strengths. I can share my life and give people inspiration, but that is spirit working through me. My responsibility is to live my own life as honestly as I can and to keep moving forward. ■

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CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22 – JANUARY 19

Best to stick with tried and true values, rather than looking for a quick fix or taking the easy way out. This especially applies to business matters. New Moon on the 2nd bring terrific financial news. A long held "treasure" is finally sold. This will give your "cash cushion" some padding. Any vacation getaway after the 21st looks terrific.



AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 – FEBRUARY 18

Expecting the unexpected shall make this a month to remember. Everything gets done, but in a rather "ass backward" type of manner. It'll be a great deal of fun, as long as you don't over plan. There are times for simply allowing the "powers that be" to take charge. This month shall prove to be one of them. So, just relax and enjoy the ride!



PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 – MARCH 19

That class reunion later this month is not to be missed. Make sure you're "dressed to kill" for it. Full Moon on the 17th could have you feeling a bit melancholy. It'll only last for a day or two. Treat yourself (and that aching back) to a massage. Sleep patterns look a bit jumbled as the month ends. But it won't affect how you work or look.



ARIES

MARCH 20 – APRIL 19

Multiple sources of income have helped you become debt free and even be able to sock some cash away. Isn't that a nice change of pace? Why not splurge some of it on a new wardrobe? That rockin' body deserves to be shown off in a fantastic way. While you're at it, why not try out a new "hair do" or even a new color? We say be daring and go for it!



TAURUS

APRIL 20 – MAY 20

May gets off to a rip roaring start with the Annual New Moon charging through your sign on the 2nd. You may not want to listen to reason on the 9th. Make sure to get an early start on the 15th. Financial aspects ease up after the 19th. Spend the 29th & 30th by yourself if that's at all possible.



GEMINI

MAY 21 – JUNE 21

Gemini (May 21-June 21) Hard work is what will bring about results throughout the month. Very little shall come your way easily (that'll happen during July). Leave those credit cards at home on the 14th. The temptation will be just too much. Full Moon on the 17th really ignites your already fiery amorous nature. Prepare yourself for a passion filled night.



CANCER

JUNE 22 – JULY 22

Splendid results from work done weeks or even months ago shower all around you during May. It'll feel a bit like Christmas. Better late than never, right? An old love interest may be looking to rekindle the relationship. We suspect ulterior motives, so watch your back. The 21st & 22nd looks splendid for a weekend getaway.



LEO

JULY 23 – AUGUST 22

Love, is in the air! Or at least a high degree of lust. You'll be firing on all thrusters this month. No one will be able to resist that amazing charm or incredible "bod". Try not to break too many hearts though. It could come back to haunt you later on. The 28th looks strong for playing and winning at all games of chance.



VIRGO

AUGUST 23 – SEPTEMBER 22

Your place looks great now that all the renovations are over and done with. This calls for throwing a bash to celebrate (and of course show it off). The 7th looks best for that. Lunar aspects from the 16th-18th might have you craving more privacy than usual. Go ahead and enjoy it. You don't need to explain your feelings and needs to almost anyone.



LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 – OCTOBER 22

It looks as though you'll succeed at about 75% of what you attempt this month. Concentrate more on what is needed as opposed to what's desired. Next month will offer a lot more fun. Have the tires on that vehicle rotated (it's overdue). Make sure that all insurance premiums are paid and up to date. The 28th looks good for a hot fling.



SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 – NOVEMBER 21

Study Gemini's message. Put your nose to the grindstone and roll up those sleeves. Hard work, sweat and tears are what will bring about desired results. Not that there isn't some hot fun to be had (especially on the 20th & 29th). Don't lend any money to a sibling no matter how loud they holler for it.



SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22 – DECEMBER 21

Good fortune seems to engulf you throughout May. This is a good month for taking chances and broadening your clientele base. Perhaps it's time to invest in a website. A computer "whiz kid" friend will be happy to help. A new friendship is forged by mid month. One that will last for a lifetime. Throw a cozy bash during Memorial Day weekend.

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RIBBON OF LIFE

BY LEA CARRASCO ZANINI



"I encourage everyone in the community to come out and support the 25th anniversary of Ribbon of Life on June 26, 2011"

Twenty-five years after its founding, Golden Rainbow continues to fight against HIV/AIDS on a daily basis. One of the longest running AIDS service organizations in Nevada, this year Golden Rainbow celebrates 25 years of service to people living with HIV/AIDS. The agency has made it through one of the worst economic climates this country has seen since the Great Depression, which was no easy feat to conquer. With over 9,000 people living with the disease here in Clark County, our services to this already fragile population are crucial now more than ever.

You could say we are a small agency, only ever having two paid employees for 25 years, but that's the only small aspect about us. The agency itself provides direct financial assistance to more than 600 men, women and children every year while also providing permanent housing to men, women and children with its eight, two-bedroom apartments, three-bedroom house and two-bedroom townhouse. I strongly believe in the agency's community based approach, which has always been an important aspect of this organization. I think that is something to be valued.

Golden Rainbow was created because an entertainer battling AIDS was forced to live and die in his brother's garage. Entertainers, by doing what they do best, put on their first show to raise money for supportive services. That first show was called Golden Rainbow and eventually renamed as Ribbon of Life. The agency's largest source of revenue and main fundraiser, Ribbon of Life, also celebrates its silver anniversary this year at the Paris Las Vegas on June 26, 2011 at 1 p.m. The show is produced by hundreds of Las Vegas' best entertainers each year, all of whom are volunteering their time and talents to the cause. With such star power, these performers easily make this the best fundraising show on The Strip. Continued support from performers is evidence the agency is deeply rooted in the community with roots stretching all the way down the Las Vegas Strip

through every showroom.

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge that the talent behind the scenes is as equally important as the talent you see on the stage at Ribbon of Life. I'm talking of course about the agency's Board of Directors. A group of seventeen people make up Golden Rainbow's Board of Directors, all of whom would probably consider Golden Rainbow to be their second job. The time and effort that they put into the agency and its fundraisers is astounding. They are true stars in my eyes. Because of their unwavering commitment, Golden Rainbow continues to be able to serve those in need. I know Las Vegas thanks them and I thank them. It was 15 years ago that my dance teacher passed away when his life was cut short by AIDS. He was an inspiration to many young dancers like me growing up in Las Vegas. I hope he is smiling down on us and proud of the work this small, tough and relentless organization provides as we continue our efforts to make life a little easier for those living with HIV/AIDS.

I encourage everyone in the community to come out and support the 25th anniversary of Ribbon of Life on June 26, 2011 at the Paris Las Vegas. Tickets starts at just \$35 and can be purchased by calling the Paris Las Vegas Box Office at 1.888.746.7784. It's only with the help and support of our community that we can continue to make a difference every day in the lives of others. ■

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