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JUNE 2014
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THE SWIMSUIT ISSUE

EATING OUT:
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MAKE A SPLASH

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Liquid Nitrogen Cocktails

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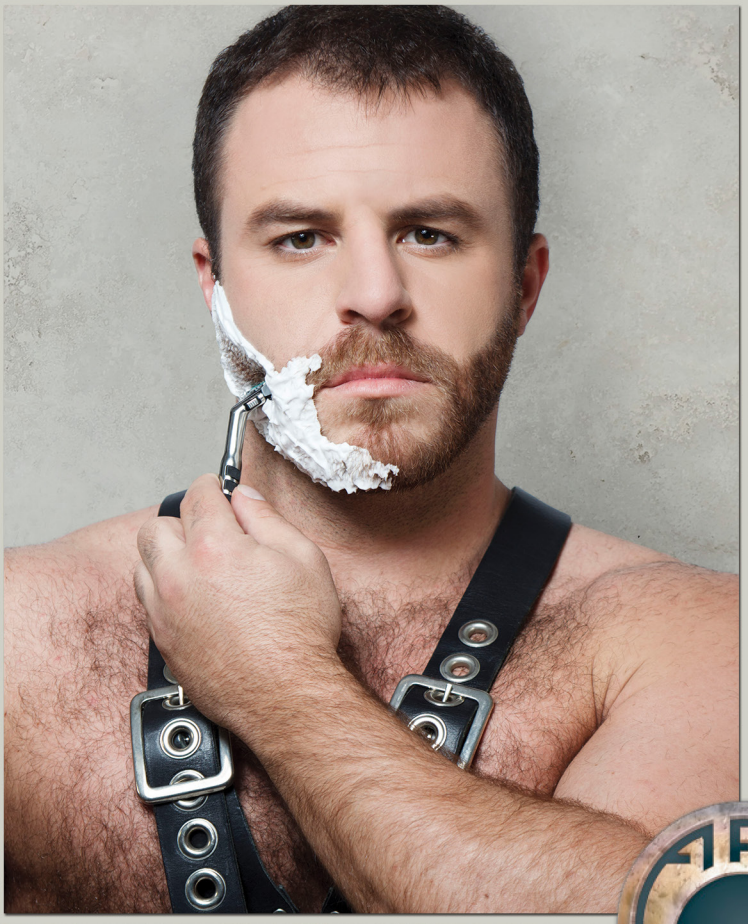

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THE SWIMSUIT ISSUE

JUNE 2014

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ON THE COVER

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Editor's Note

DON'T SPLASH UNLESS...

you're ready to swim like a "grown-up". Dive right into the official start of summer this month with The Swimsuit Issue.

The solar summer began sometime in the first week of May but the astronomical summer centers around June 21. Meteorologically the "dog days" of summer are approaching so you'll want to debut that hot bawdy in some bearable water ASAP! No worries, Chris Mason brewed up the T on just where you'll want to have a cocktail and a cutie in "Time to Make a Splash".

In case you missed the memo, we've replaced our "That's So Vegas" event calendar with an all new print version of Garrett's Gay Guide. Discover this convenient folding pocket guide that lets you preserve your issue of *QVegas* and take the daily LGBTQ guide to Las Vegas and map to go!

Come get whisked away to a glitzy, mature version of the fantasy land from Lewis Carroll's classic children's book *Alice in Wonderland* at The Center's ARTrageous Vegas event featuring an extravagance of music, culture and mind-blowing art on Saturday, June 14 from 5:30 to 10:30 PM. Themed "Artist in Wonderland" and curated by historian and art enthusiast Brian "Paco" Alvarez, this year's event will feature a juried art show and sale, fashion shows, signature Wonderland inspired drinks, and live entertainment.

President Barack Obama proclaimed June 2012 as LGBT Pride Month as a call upon the people of the United States to eliminate prejudice everywhere it is exists, and to celebrate the diversity of the people of this nation. Elected officials are choosing to push discrimination off the books, even the youngest among us are breaking their silence to speak up about anti-LGBTQ bullying. We all have to do our part to acknowledge that discrimination amongst ourselves still exists. We are thinking forward but we have to move forward. Proudly fight for those who can not fight, but beam with pride FOR those who have used their light so that we can all shine.

Janise "Noah" Henderson
@NOAHSARTARK

I WANT TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS

Do you have something on your mind?

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

Do you have an idea for a future story?

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JUNE 2014

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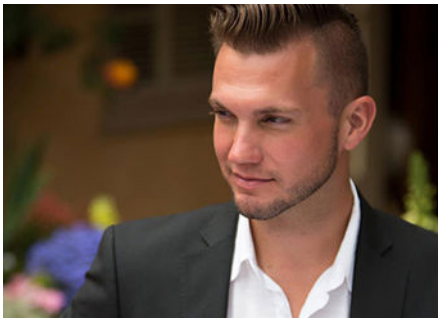


Garrett Pattiani
garrett@garrettsgayguide.com

Social Tuesdays Passport Edition

Every Tuesday in June

This month Garrett's Gay Guide, QVegas, and Absolut have partnered up to bring you Social Tuesdays Passport Edition. Pickup your Social Tuesdays Passport on June 3 and get your passport stamped each week for a chance to win the grand prize drawing. It's a surprise, but I know you'll just go gaga over it.

http://socialtuesdays.com

Pride Family Bingo Benefiting The Center.

Every Wednesday

PRIDE Family Bingo returns to Las Vegas at its new home inside The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada (The Center). Led by bingo hostesses Norma and Doris, PRIDE Family Bingo will be held the first Wednesday of each month at The Center. Each evening will feature a happy hour, a unique theme, costume contest and numerous prizes including assorted gift baskets, hotel night stays, gift cards and much more. Raffle tickets will also be available for purchase for those seeking an extra chance to take home a prize.

http://www.thecenterlv.org/

Neon Trees

Thursday, June 5

Multi-platinum group Neon Trees will celebrate the release of their new studio album, Pop Psychology, with a massive North American headline tour making a stop in Las Vegas at The Cosmopolitan.

http://cosmopolitanlasvegas.com

LA Pride

Friday, June 6 — Sunday, June 8

LA Pride produced the world's first PRIDE Parade a year after the modern transgender, lesbian, gay, and bisexual liberation movement launched by the mob-led rebellion at the Stonewall Inn on New York's Christopher Street in June 1969. Today, LA Pride is one of the largest Pride celebrations in the country. Grand Marshall Demi Lovato will lead the parade on June 8.

http://lapride.org

ARTrageous

Saturday, May 14

ARTrageous Vegas is the annual art extravaganza that benefits The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada. ARTrageous Vegas celebrates art in its many forms — visual arts, culinary arts, performing arts and fashion — featuring works from the Las Vegas community in a party atmosphere. Ages 21 and older.

http://artrageousvegas.org

Chelsea Handler

Friday & Saturday, May 13 & 14

Chelsea Handler returns to Vegas with two performances at none other than The Chelsea at the Cosmopolitan.

As the host of E!'s "Chelsea Lately", Handler remains the only female to break into the otherwise male-dominated late night arena.

http://cosmopolitanlasvegas.com

Electric Daisy Carnival

Friday, June 20 — Sunday June 22

EDC Las Vegas brings 400,000 fans to the Las Vegas Motor Speedway, the largest audience in the festival's history, for an unforgettable, dusk-till-dawn, multi-day festival. A roster of colorful theatrical performers, larger-than-life art installations, dance music's most renowned artists, full-scale carnival rides, and nightly pyrotechnic displays will create a unique and wondrous environment that must be experienced firsthand.

http://electricdaisycarnival.com

Ribbon of Life

Sunday, June 22

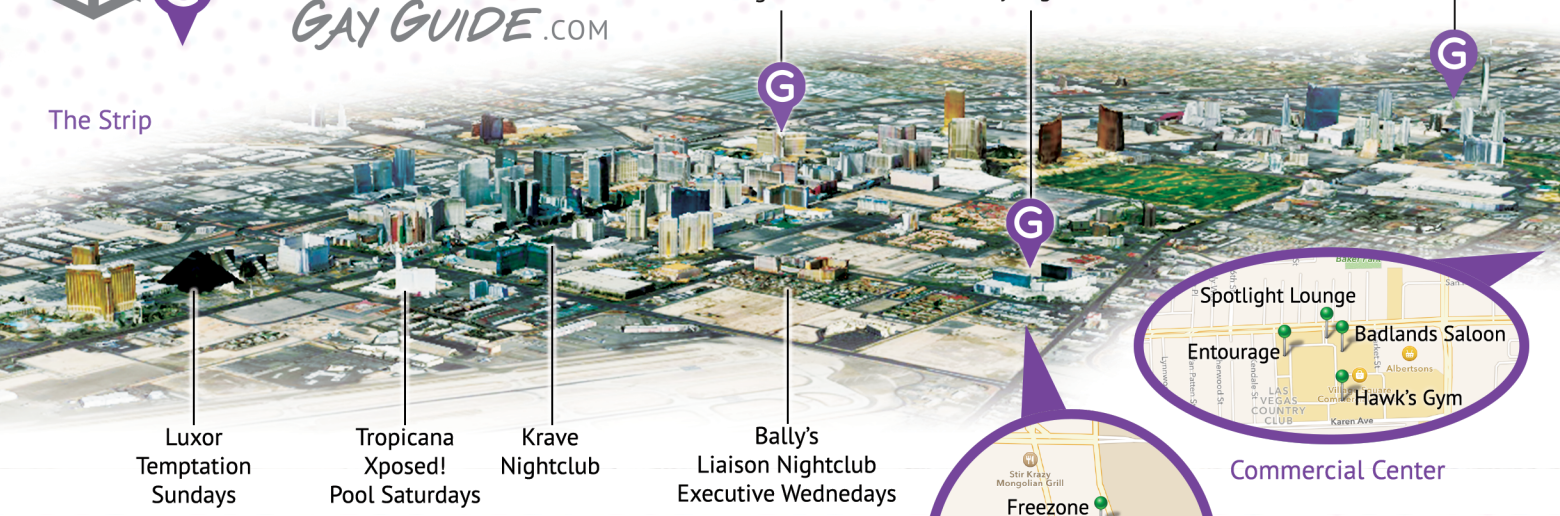
Golden Rainbow is a grass roots organization, founded by members of the entertainment industry who saw the need to provide housing for people with HIV/AIDS when one of their own was forced to live and die in a garage. Professional Entertainers from Las Vegas come together once a year to put on a fabulous show to benefit Golden Rainbow.

http://goldenrainbow.org

Liaison

Located at Bally's, Liaison will open this summer in the space currently occupied by Drai's famed After Hours nightclub.

Garrett's Gay Guide .com



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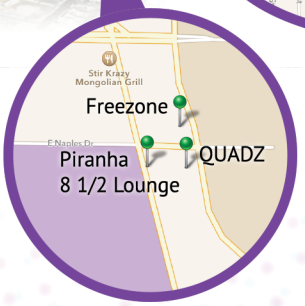
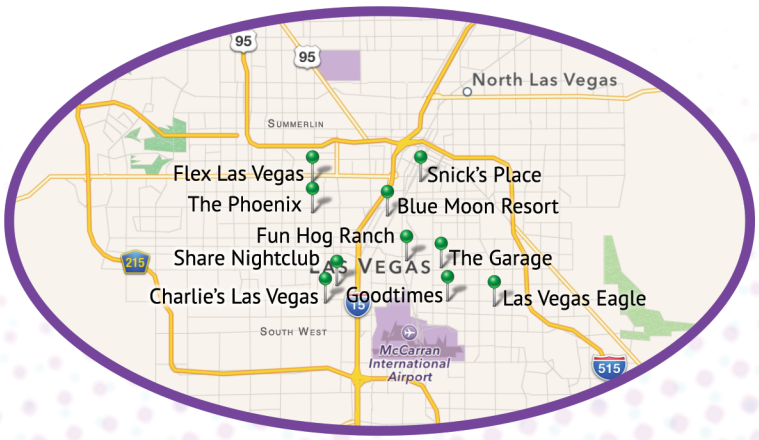


The Fruit Loop

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



City Wide

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

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and No Cover with Guest List

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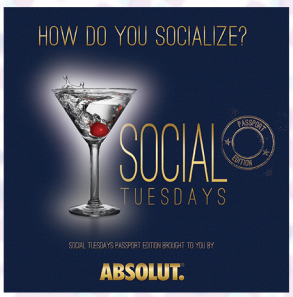

New Location Every Tuesdays
7-10PM
Visit SocialTuesdays.com

This month's Social Tuesdays are sponsored by Absolut. Attend each week for a chance to win a grand prize you'll go gaga over.

Go UP Before You Go OUT
Gay Vegas "Pre-Gaming"
6-10PM Stratosphere Tower

festival

Gay Labor Day Weekend
August 29-September 1
festivallv.com

Find these events and more in the QVegas App for iPhone.

Want your event listed in Garrett's Gay Guide? Visit http://yellow.qvegas.com and publish your events for free and we'll consider it for next month's listing.

GARRETT'S GAY GUIDE.COM

Sundays

- REVO Sundays at Revolution Lounge inside Mirage Hotel
- Temptation Sundays at Luxor Pool
- Service Industry Night at Flex Lounge
- Country Line Dance Lessons at Charlie's
- Amazing Drag Review at Charlie's
- Ladies Night at FreeZone
- BBQ at Blue Moon Resort

REVO sundays

Get on the Guest List for Open Bar 10-11 and No Cover until 1AM.

Visit GarrettsGayGuide.com or download the QVegas iPhone® App.

Mondays

- Mondays Dark at Hard Rock Hotel (3rd Monday)
- Martini Mondays at Flex Lounge
- Liquor Bust at Spotlight Lounge
- Karaoke at Charlie's Las Vegas
- S.I.N. Mondays at The Garage

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Saturdays

- Goddess with India Ferrah at Piranha Nightclub
- Ladies Q Social at Lady Sylvia's (Every 2nd Saturday)
- Drag Madness at FreeZone
- CumUnion at Hawk's Gym
- LGBT Volleyball/BBQ Social at Sunset Park

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Fridays

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

altitude FRIDAYS

Altitude Fridays
Go UP Before You Go Out
6-10PM
Stratosphere

Level 107 Lounge
Happy Hour 6-7 • /AltitudeFridays

Tuesdays

- Social Tuesdays
- Drag Queen Bingo at Charlie's
- Karaoke Night at FreeZone
- Trashy Tuesdays at Hawk's Gym

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7-10pm every week

Sign Up for Weekly Announcements at SocialTuesdays.com

Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

- HRC/QVegas 3rd Thursday
- PRISM (2nd Thursdays)
- Foreplay at Share Nightclub
- Boys Night at FreeZone
- Tat Thursdays at Entourage
- Karaoke at The Phoenix

Events with checkmarks indicate a Garrett's Gay Guide Favorite

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EATING OUT

[by Michael Barbieri]
myvegasobsession.com

ROSE. RABBIT. LIE
@ THE COSMOPOLITAN LAS VEGAS

LOOK OUT!!! That dragon just grabbed some food off your plate! Watch it! Those hot tap dancers might knock your drink off the bar! Oooh! A champagne tower?! Yes, please! Wasn't dinner fabulous? Hey! It's time for the late show. Do you want to stay and dance? The DJ's dressed as Jesus!

This is Rose. Rabbit. Lie.

Located on the second floor at The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas, and open Wednesdays through Saturdays, Rose. Rabbit. Lie. is the creation of Dave Bernahl and Rob Weakly, along with entertainment producers Spiegelworld. This is an immersive experience - fine dining, cocktail culture, cabaret, and environmental theater all collide in an enormous space designed to resemble a sleek, grey marbled mansion where anything goes! The mansion is divided into various, more intimate rooms, and depending on where one is seated, the experience can vary. This was our experience.....

Large doormen opened large doors leading into an octagonal entry hall. Secret doors led patrons to different parts of the establishment, as if the entire place were some post-modern speakeasy. Our reservations were confirmed and a beautiful hostess swept us through our secret door.

As we stepped inside, everything changed. The quiet organization of the front of house was replaced by a rollicking party, populated by well-dressed men and women, some sitting in the Reading Room, others sitting in the Library, with a backlit representation of Hieronymus Bosch's "The Garden Of Earthly Delights" at one end. In the Music Room, the crowd at the bar was two or three people deep in spots, and a corner stage awaited a small band. We were escorted to the Swimming Pool where our table awaited. Our view? The back end of a turntable-style stage. The adjoining room, The Ballroom, is the home of Vegas Nocturne, a sexy, silly, highly energetic variety show. Basically, we're having dinner backstage! We sat down, picked up our menus which were sealed with wax, and cracked them open.

Show Snapshot #1: An enormous bowl of water is wheeled in. Two lovely ladies do a contortion act on the edges before plunging into the water to embrace. A young lady above us is doing an aerial hoop act. A hot young man, clad only in black knit boxers has just come offstage. He's wet from his act which takes place in a bathtub. He dries off by doing handstands on an easy chair. It's very difficult to concentrate on ordering!

Executive Chef Wesley Holton's menu features mostly small plates for sharing, and with a bit of guidance from our handsome, helpful server, we made a few selections from the "Herbivore's Delight" section. Before our plates had a chance to arrive, however, it was suggested that we start with one Caviar Taco each - tiny potato shells filled with the sweetest, cleanest tasting black sturgeon caviar. Each taco was garnished with tiny dollops of créme fraiche and a Hamachi pearl. As soon as he'd eaten it, my friend Joseph exclaimed "I felt that down to my TOES!" Within moments, our table was crowded with plates, some of which were at the insistence of the chef. We sampled the Herbed Brioche Rolls - fluffy, fresh and warm. When the subtle flavor of the herbs hit my palate, it was sheer heaven! The Brussels Sprouts with crispy chicken skin were a savory treat - served this way, I think more finicky children just might eat their greens! The Orange Fennel Salad was light and tangy, with a delicious sherry vinaigrette that never overpowered. The Vegetable Crudite was one of the most cleverly presented dished I've encountered, with the tiny baby veggies, sprouts still attached, poking out of a "forest floor" made of shaved mushrooms - a little garden growing on your plate! By far, one of our favorite offerings, was the Cauliflower and Green Apple Velouté - a velvety soup with the tiniest hint of green apple to bring out the full flavor of the cauliflower. Served in whimsical animal-foot shot glasses, the flavor combination was quite spectacular!

Show Snapshot #2: Piff, the Magic Dragon, a snarky English comic in a ludicrous dragon suit, wanders dejectedly through the room. A

fantastic female beat-boxer/ singer named Butterscotch has just come offstage. She's in the company of the Scott Brothers, two of the best tap dancers I've ever seen - today's version of the Nicholas Brothers. They leap off the stage and run into the Music Room, where they tap on portable platforms, then on the bar, and finally on the piano!

Now, dishes "From the Sea" and "Plates Around the Table" began arriving.
Once again, our table was overflowing with food. Steamed Mussels in a fabulous Old Bay broth, sweet and clean, with a touch of brininess - the grilled sourdough bread was perfect for dipping! We tried the Rabbit Fricassée with carrots, mushrooms, and of all things... rose petals! The rabbit was outstanding - a bit like poultry; somewhat stronger than duck, but not gamey in the least. The Steak Tartare had a hearty bite, thanks to the dollops of egg emulsion, Worcestershire gelée, and the tiny, tart cornichons on the side, and the Braised Pork was succulent and tender. Much as we enjoyed everything, we did have a few favorites: the Pan Roasted Atlantic Salmon was firm, juicy and cooked to a perfect pink, with the sea beans on top imparting a subtle oceanic flavor. The Loup De Mer en Croute had a crispy breading on the outside but was delicate and flaky inside. Presented on a bed of creamed spinach, the verjus added a hint of acid, while the sliced red grapes on top, provided a sweet note - so good, you might not be willing to share this dish! Finally, the Uni Perciatelli and the Short Rib Stroganoff just plain left us speechless! The Stroganoff was a kind of deconstruction, with a solid mound of tender, flavorful, braised short rib, draped with a piece of flat, herbed pasta. Don't think...just order! The Perciatelli were hollow, spaghetti-like noodles, topped with a creamy uni (sea urchin) based sauce. Topped with Alaskan King Crab and a strip of urchin roe, this was decadent beyond description. I almost felt guilty eating it....almost!

Show Snapshot #3: Throughout the night, we've been catching little glimpses of Vegas Nocturne from backstage, but clearly we're approaching the Finale. A simple contest to hit a ping-pong ball into a cup has escalated to a full scale war, with audience members throwing ping-pong balls at the cast and at each other, cast members chuck ping-pong balls anywhere they can, a cannon shoots hundreds of balls everywhere. The walls between rooms are descending, electronically. The various rooms of Rose. Rabbit. Lie. become one for a brief moment, uniting everyone in revelry!

We found we had room for dessert, so we decided on the Cookie Jar, with freshly made Chocolate Chip Cookies, Carrot Cake Bars, and other goodies. For good measure, the jar itself was shaped like a big, bad wolf's head. A signature dessert called a Chocolate Terrarium sounded too interesting not to order and it didn't disappoint!
Under a large glass dome, was a layer of chocolate "dirt", studded with chunks of chocolate buttermilk cake, puddles of "mud" made from chocolate custard, terrarium walls made from hazelnut feulletine wafers, and a garden ball made from freeze dried carrot ice cream. "Growing" out of the chocolate dirt, were edible flowers and herbs. This was one of those dishes that was so pretty, you felt bad about eating it...until that first bite! I have to admit, though, that I didn't care for the plants - too bitter for my palate.

Our dinner was at an end. The 9:30 show was wrapping up. People were in a festive mood. Joseph and I stayed to watch the midnight show. Afterward, when the Ballroom became a dance club, we stayed and danced, and as the only male couple on the floor, we seemed a perfectly natural part of this social experiment.

With so much to do, and see, Rose. Rabbit. Lie. is a feast for the senses! The food is sublime, the cocktails are handcrafted by master mixologists, and the performers will take your breath away. Everything you need for a night like none other, is waiting behind those secret doors. All that's missing in this Garden of Earthly Delights...is YOU!

A Poker Millionaire Forgets the Basics

LOW STAKES MISTAKES

[by Dave Larson]

It's Friday night. My excitement stirs as I survey a packed room, sizing up my prey. With some careful observation, well-timed aggression, the occasional white lie and a little luck, tonight I may come out on top. It's time to play poker and I like my chances.

I'm at the Orleans. The Friday night tournament here always draws a crowd. Every week at least 250 players fight for a first prize that usually tops $5000. Winning is a great return on a $125 investment. The crowd is mostly locals; but a smattering of tourists venture across the highway from their hotels on the strip. The people here know each other. Players greet the host with hugs, trade gossip and bad beat stories. A few hold grudges that go back years.

The poker room at the Orleans is only a mile from the Rio, which hosts the high-stakes, internationally-known World Series of Poker (WSOP). Thousands of players pack its convention rooms from Memorial Day to mid-July, but the atmosphere and play at Orleans is closer to the smoky Horseshoe Casino in Hammond, Indiana where I cut my teeth as a pro. Players are just as passionate about the game, but they have wildly varying theories about what it takes to win at poker. Most of their strategies have some fundamental holes, or "leaks." It's these leaks that pros like me use to funnel their chips into our stacks.

Mixed in with the locals and tourists at the Orleans, you occasionally find a few seasoned pros. Some have achieved success at poker's highest level, shining under the spotlight of the ESPN cameras as they outlasted thousands of players at the WSOP Main Event. Last week one of those players, who won $3.7 million in a single tournament in 2008, sat a few seats to my right.

Typical to an Orleans tournament, the early action was fast and furious, with many players abandoning caution during the beginning levels. Two young players on the far end of the table had amassed an early lead.

The blinds were 100/200, or about 1/60th the starting stack of 12,500 when the following hand went down: The two young guns entered the pot, just calling the big blind from late position. The pro raised from the small blind to 1200. Action folded to the young guys who both called. The dealer laid out the flop – 8♥ 6♦ 4♥ The pro checked and both young guys checked behind. The turn brought the 2♣ and the pro fired out a large bet – 4400 chips. The first young gun called while the second got out of the way.

With 12,500 chips in the pot, The pro moved all in for 7700 when the queen of hearts hit the River. His young opponent called. The pro tabled Q♦ 9♣ for a pair of queens. His opponent showed K♥ 5♥ for a king high flush and the poker millionaire was swiftly eliminated.

What happened? How did the amateur bust the pro? While his opponent got lucky, the pro made some fundamental mistakes.

Winning poker players bet with a purpose. They bet when they think they have the best hand hoping their opponent will call with a worse hand. This is dubbed a value bet. When they suspect their hand is behind, they may bet or raise hoping their opponents will fold a better hand to the pressure. This is a bluff. If your opponents won't call with a worse hand or fold a better hand, betting is usually a mistake.

Mistake #1: Don't bluff players that won't fold.

The pro's initial raise was a bluff. He knew Q9 is not a strong starting hand, He raised because he correctly sensed weakness. The two young guns had each passed up an opportunity to raise. However, for a bluff to be successful, it's not enough for your opponents to hold a weak hand. They must also be likely to fold their mediocre hands to your bet. Given the hands he had watched before, the deep stacks of his opponents, and their demographic characteristics, the pro greatly overestimated how often he would win without a fight. Now he had to play a big pot with a weak hand against two opponents who could be holding almost anything. To make matters worse, in each round of betting the pro had to act first, giving his opponents an information advantage. Even for a pro, this is an untenable situation.

The low and coordinated flop cards were much more likely to

connect with the hole cards of his loose opponents than the premium hands the pro had represented with his pre-flop raise. The pro wisely slowed down But when everyone checked the flop, the pro took a chance at another bluff. Again his opponent did not cooperate. The river brought a third heart and the pro went all in. This last bet was a disastrous mistake, not because he ran into the hand he was trying to represent, but because it was an unnecessary risk, unlikely to succeed as either a value bet or a bluff.

Mistake #2: Don't forget the two main reasons for betting

A skilled player constantly tries to determine what cards his opponent is hiding. He constructs a set of likely candidates. Each bet, raise, check and call his opponent eliminates hands from this set, called his opponent's range. While this rarely yields an opponent's exact hand, skilled players can get a good idea of the cards in their opponents hands.

The young gun limped and called a raise before the flop, checked on the flop and called the big bet the turn. What hands would most likely fit this pattern? Start by ruling out very strong hands like a straight, three of a kind or two pair. He passed up on four chances to bet or raise. If he had a monster, he should have bet by now. Yet he feels his hand is too good to fold. This probably means a good drawing hand or a medium pair. Draws include flush draws and straight draws like 97 or any hand with a 5 which (With a with a 3 or 7 on the river, any 5 makes a straight). The one pair hands you see here often also have some hope at a straight or flush like 87, 77, or A♥6♥.

How does the Q♥ change how the young gun should feel about his hand? If he were drawing to a straight, he missed and should correctly assume he is behind. If he held two hearts, he now has a flush, a very powerful hand that he should assume is the best. If he doesn't have a flush, he is likely to worry the pro has one and be wary of calling any further bets. His one pair hands probably haven't improved to two pair, and now trail the pro's pair of queens.

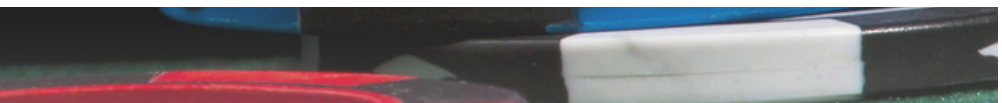
Given this situation, the pro's bet is a disaster! If he bets, all the flushes which beat him will call and all hands weaker than his pair of queens will probably fold. Betting does not work as a value bet nor a bluff. His best option is to check. If his opponent bets, he can call or fold depending on if he thinks hist opponent is bluffing.

What if the river card were a Jack of hearts instead? Now the opponent's range has some number of one pair hands that beat the pro's Queen high, but probably won't stand the heat of an all in shove. In this case a bluff could be a profitable play.

The next time you are about to fire a big bet, ask yourself, "Which better hands can I get to fold?" And "Which worse hands can I expect to call?" If you can't identify a target, hold your fire. Even poker millionaires sometimes forget.

If you have a hand that's bugging you and want some professional advice, send it to PocketRocket!

Dave Larson is a former high school math teacher who moved to Las Vegas in 2011 to play poker professionally. 🐦 *@PocketRocket.*



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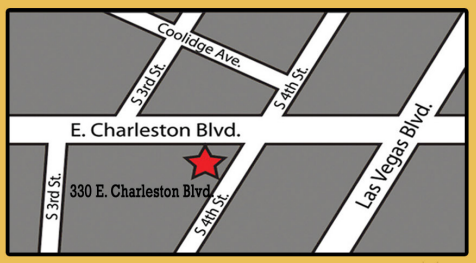

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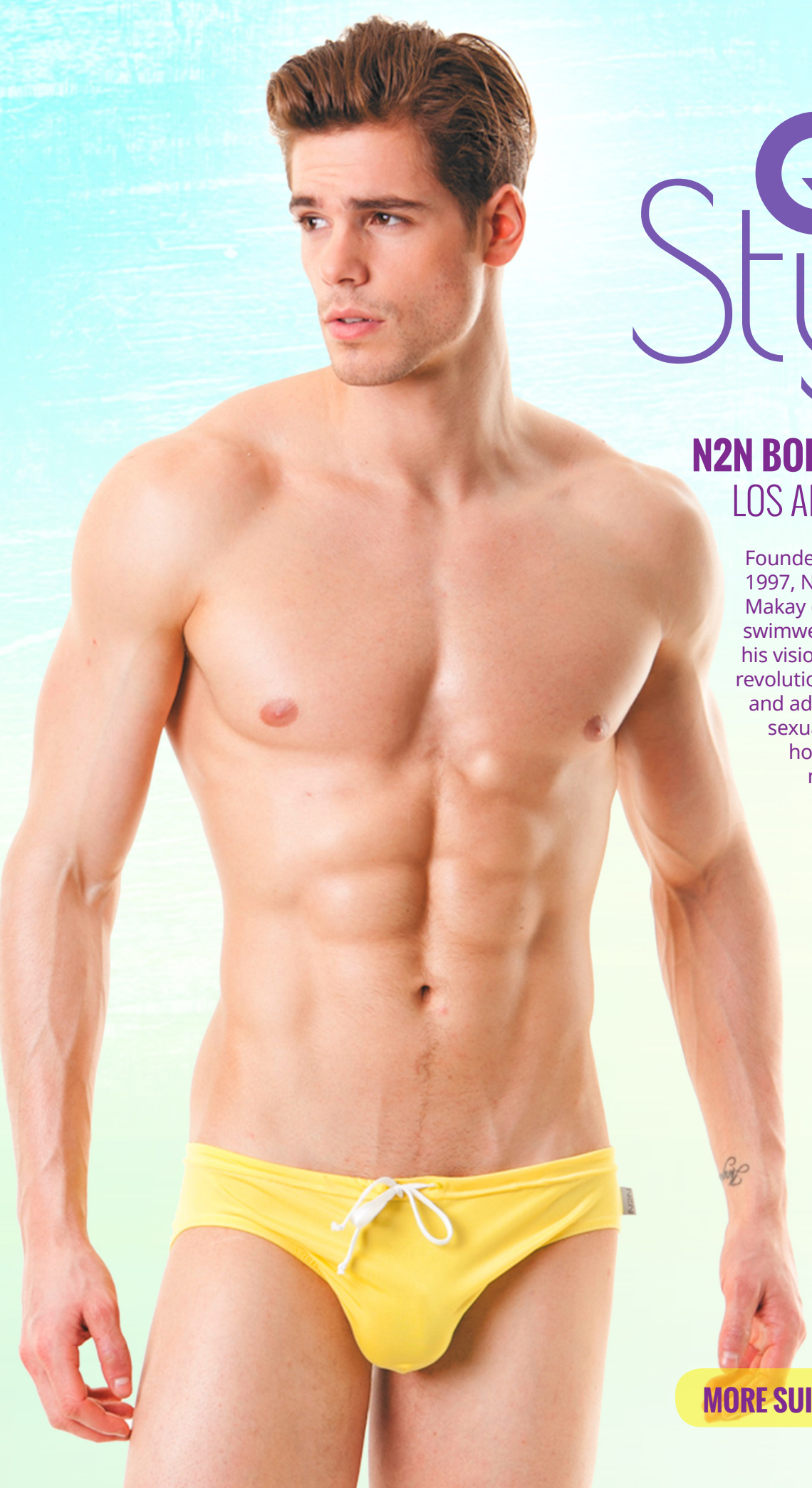

Q Style

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Founded in Los Angeles in 1997, N2N Bodywear's Andrew Makay creates more than great swimwear and underwear; his vision launched an apparel revolution for the gay traveler and adventurous metro-sexual. Whether you are a homosexual or straight-man, N2N will have something to make you feel special, unique and super-appealing to your partner. So many of us spend hours and hours in the gym but we tend to hide behind unappealing and sometimes baggy clothing. N2N is not your typical underwear and swimwear company; it truly embraces the male physique and takes him to the next level of true sex appeal.

MORE SUITS ON THE NEXT PAGE ▶

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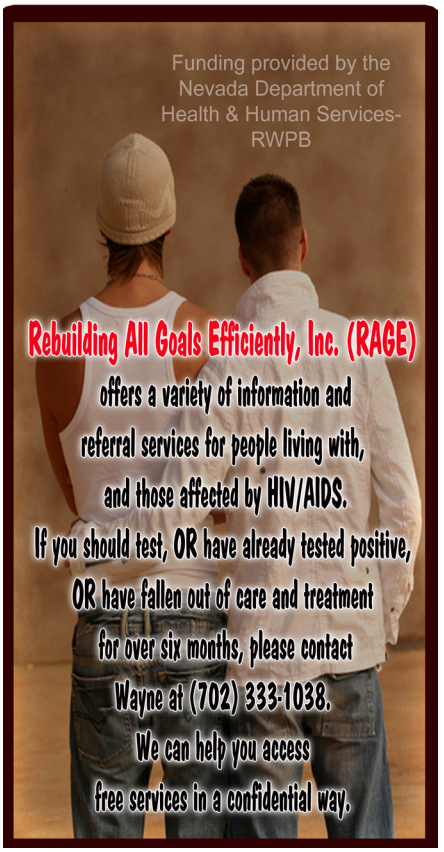

SWING FOR THE FENCES!

THE LAS VEGAS 51S STEP UP TO THE PLATE

[by Chris Mason]

Not everyone may be aware of the fact that I am indeed a sports nut who has been involved and around baseball for just about my entire life. The Las Vegas 51s are the triple-A minor league affiliate of the New York Mets and calls Cashman field its home and fulfills the craving of many who simply must have live baseball as well as the complete experience of attending games. Pre-game batting practice, hot dogs, peanuts, nachos and perhaps the occasional cold beer. Baseball is just American. As cliche as that may be, it is still just as accurate. I grew up in a city that revolves around baseball and I was indeed brought up with that same mentality. Maybe for better or for worse but the game of baseball is definitely in my blood.

With all of that said...ladies and gentlemen, YOUR Las Vegas 51s.

This year's season kicked off on April 3, 2014 with a win over Fresno and will go throughout the Summer with the final regular season game being an away game against Albuquerque on September 1, 2014.

The 51s pride themselves in giving back to the community of Las Vegas and to help and aid in annual school functions, children's hospital visits and charity events with various businesses and organizations in the Las Vegas valley. "The 51s franchise is dedicated to be a community partner and we need to give back to the city that we play in," 51s Executive Director Don Logan

said, "We have provided fun and exciting entertainment during the summer months for the citizens of Southern Nevada for three decades and 51s baseball is a very important entity in this community." One can't miss event coming up is the "UP to BAT for The Center". This event will be held on June 5, 2014 against Fresno and will have a special reduced ticket price of $12, with $4 of every ticket going to benefit The Center.

At every game you get to see the up and coming stars of baseball in the intimate setting of Cashman field. Definitely a fun, affordable and memorable experience a single baseball enthusiast, group, family outing or even a clever date idea. Tons of fun and it's cheaper than the movies!

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So, summer is here! Hey Summer. How YOU doing? I wanted to put together a short list of some of my favorite pools to party at and give a breakdown of each of the events, that way all of you guys have an idea of what the events are all about, so you know what you are getting into. I also had the chance to speak with some of the hosts that throw these awesome pools parties, so we have the scoop straight from the source!

Temptation Sundays

Hosted by J.Dot Son

Alright. So, many of us in the LGBTQ community, including myself, know J. Dot and are familiar with his events. He is always out and about with his hand in something to better the community. I ask if he could give us a bit of insight regarding his Summer LGBT pool party phenomenon? "Temptation Sundays started 5 years ago as an idea I had and pitched to the Luxor. They quickly asked me to join the team at the pool and we developed the full groundwork together for what would become Temptation Sundays. I remember the first event in May of 2010, the weather ended up being very cold and only 50 people showed up. I was a bit nervous, but the next weekend Summer had arrived and so did the people. We have grown the event over the years from a small gathering on the Luxor South pool to a summer time mecca on the larger North pool. Over the years we have continued to expand and grow the brand and continue to provide the best quality entertainment, drinks, and pool party experience for our customers. Word of mouth has helped us tremendously and I see the same faces year after year, and have had the great opportunity to call many of these people friends." I think J. Dot pretty much summed it up.

Las Vegas locals LIVE for weekend extravaganzas at a sunny pool get together. Sexy people, sexy weather and sexy drinks. I am a daiquiri kind of boy myself. The Temptation Sunday party at Luxor has definitely made a splash! I wanted to know what he felt set Temptation apart from the countless number of other pool parties. "Temptation Sundays is unlike any other pool party in Las Vegas. Our pool area is large and whatever your tastes are, there's something for you. You can be close to the DJ booth to enjoy a club like atmosphere where guests have been known to start afternoon dance parties. You can sneak away to a quieter location in the far end of the pool, order some lunch and enjoy a conversation with friends. You can also be in the middle of the pool playing with the beach balls, water toys and having a drink while meeting new friends in the center of it all. The guests and the staff together have made Temptation Sundays feel like home, and I believe many people like that feeling and sense of community when it comes to attending an event."

I agree with his description and am definitely excited and I am sure we are all looking forward to what Temptation Sundays has in store for Las Vegas this Summer!

Sunday BBQ at The Blue Moon Resort

A Las Vegas Tradition

Feeling like you just need to escape? The Blue Moon Resort offers those who are not staying

A SPLASH!

[by Chris Mason]

overnight an opportunity to enjoy the resort features. A Blue Moon Day Pass gives you access to the entire facility (with the exception of a hotel room...unless invited) Local Las Vegans have voted it the Best Place in Las Vegas for Gay Men to hang out on Sunday. Being Las Vegas' only "clothing optional", all male, gay pool and sundeck, everything has been designed to offer complete privacy while sunbathing. The pool compound features a lagoon style pool, heated March 1 - October 31st, (Jacuzzi is heated year-round) Ample sundeck space, a 10 foot waterfall into the pool, and a stone BBQ for the weekly, Sunday BBQ's (seasonal). "I think that my Sunday BBQ's should be presented as a "Las Vegas Tradition" and as the longest running gay event in Las Vegas. The Sunday BBQ's have been a staple in the Las Vegas Community for over 11 years now. It's an event for the guys that don't care to be on display and would rather be in a private environment." That is straight from owner of Blue Moon John Hessling and in my opinion is an accurate evaluation of this event. It is not the over the top glitz and glamour that many pool parties try and accomplish, however, it does show up when it comes down to having a good time. Blue Moon has been here and doesn't show any signs of going anywhere. We should all be glad about that fact!

Encore Beach Club

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In a city that makes and breaks entertainment records with pretty much every move we make, there is probably no place more spectacular than Encore Beach Club. World class DJ's and world class service week in and week out. From Avicii, David Guetta, and Skrillex to the award winning Macklemore and Ryan Lewis who will be taking on a new residency this Summer saying I was excited would be an understatement indeed. Encore offers the biggest and most exciting experiences in town and is definitely a must do, even if it is just once during this Summer. MAKE IT HAPPEN!

XPosed at Tropicana

#saturgays

Noted and #hashtagged as #vegas #saturgays and self proclaimed as the #ultimatebeachparty, XPosed is the newest LGBTQ event diving into to Vegas this Summer. Hosted at the always fun Tropicana Las Vegas each and every Saturday this Summer season, XPosed is sure to be a fabulous addition to our weekend options fun. The beach club at Tropicana features a breathtaking tropical pool area that is encased by flowing fountains, palm trees and luxurious daybeds and cabanas. This oasis will welcome sun-kissed go-go dancers, celebrity guest performers and an assortment of DJs spinning all of the hottest hits. Attendees will also be treated to an exclusive menu of handcrafted cocktails and delectable light bites during these epic gay pool parties that will revolutionize the LGBT day club experience. Other highlights include two Olympic-sized sand volleyball courts, full-service bar. Not too shabby.

With all of these exciting events to look forward to this Summer I suppose I need to get into pool shape and spray on a fake tan. A lot of exciting parties to check out in the coming months. THIS Summer will be your best one yet! Which pool will I see you at?! Easier question...which one WON'T I see you at?!

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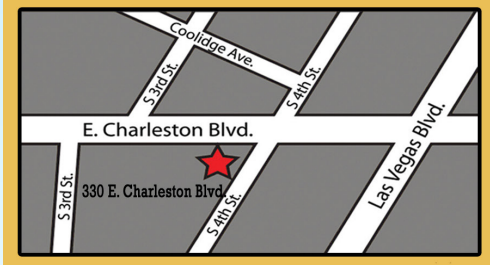

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Situated in the heart of the Las Vegas Strip, with direct access from Las Vegas Boulevard, Sugar Factory Bar & Grill (formerly American Brasserie) soothes the Vegas heat with awe-inspiring frozen cocktails. Known for highly unique and creative drink options, including their world renowned goblet cocktails, guest can now enjoy an all new, custom built cocktail cart that offers tableside service to go. Bar & Beverage Manager, Greg Waters developed the specialty cocktail cart menu.

Guest can enjoy an array of innovative cocktails, which can be further enhanced with liquid nitrogen. The liquid nitrogen addition to the cocktail cart menu features a more innovative and involved process.

The liquid nitrogen creates an exotic "fog" that enhances not only the overall presentation of the cocktail, but its taste and texture as well. The liquid nitrogen infused cocktails are served in an almost "slushy" state, allowing them to be enjoyed much like a shared dessert. As the temperature rises, the drink returns to a normal liquid state.

The specialty Liquid Nitrogen Cocktail menu includes an array of fun, creative and unique cocktails that can only be found at Las Vegas' Sugar Factory American Brasserie location. Cocktails can be made with or without liquid nitrogen. The liquid nitrogen enhancement is an additional $5.00 per drink.

Sugar Factory is a favorite among the world's hottest celebrities, including Kim Kardashian, Drake, Holly Madison, Brody Jenner, Nicki Minaj, Rupert Grint, Charlie Sheen, Eva Longoria, Nick Cannon, Ke$ha and many more. With faces like these popping up at a moment's notice, patrons have the chance to make their experience at Sugar Factory, even sweeter than imagined.

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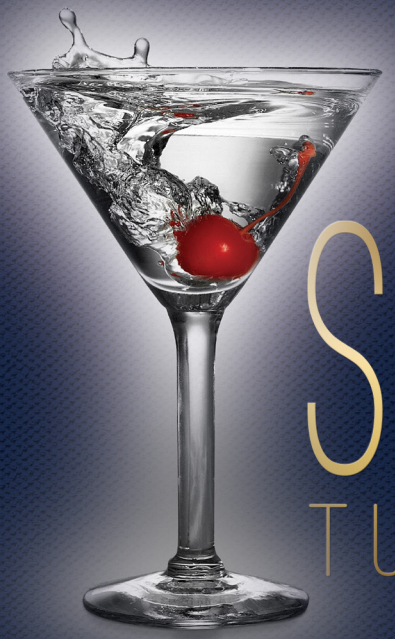

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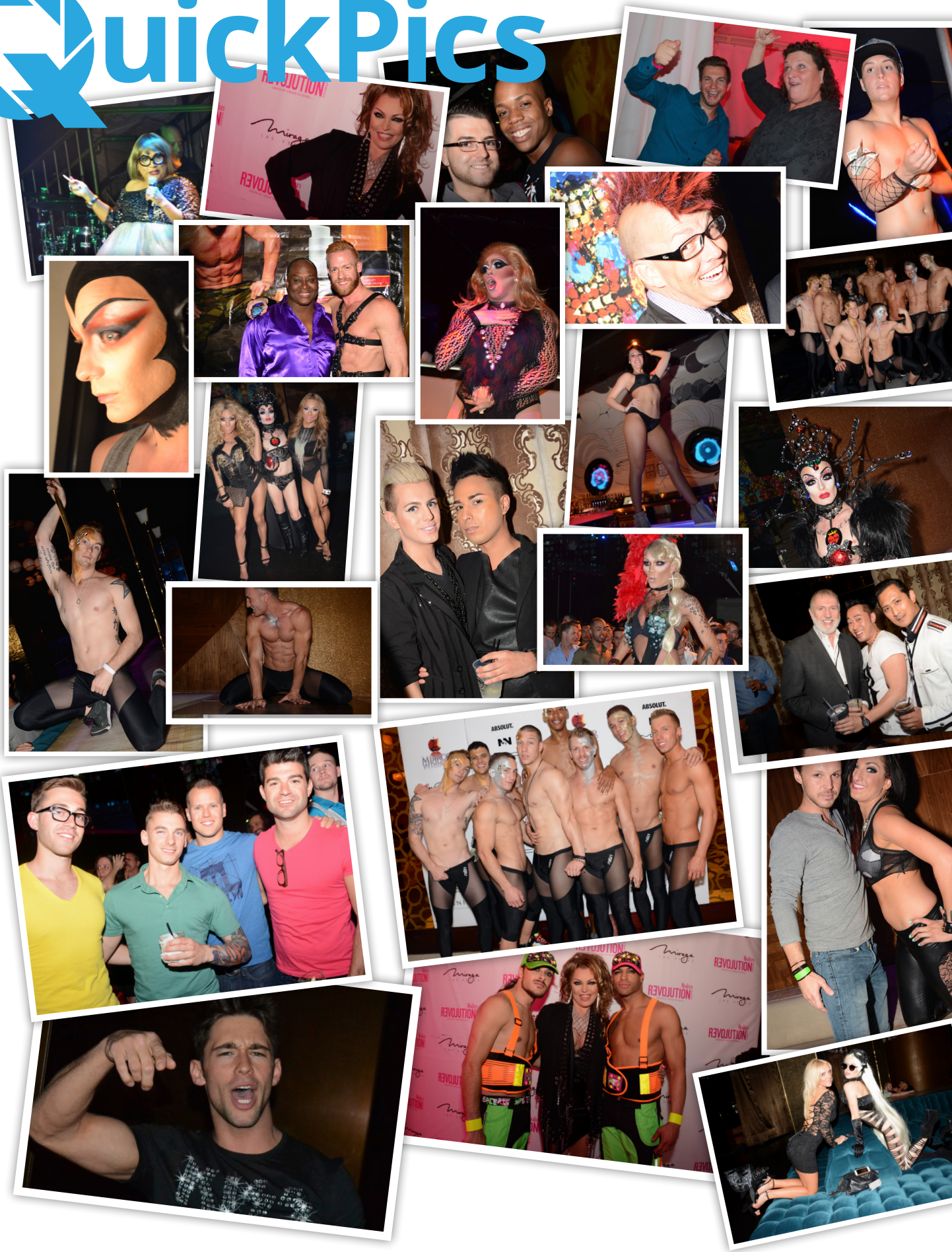

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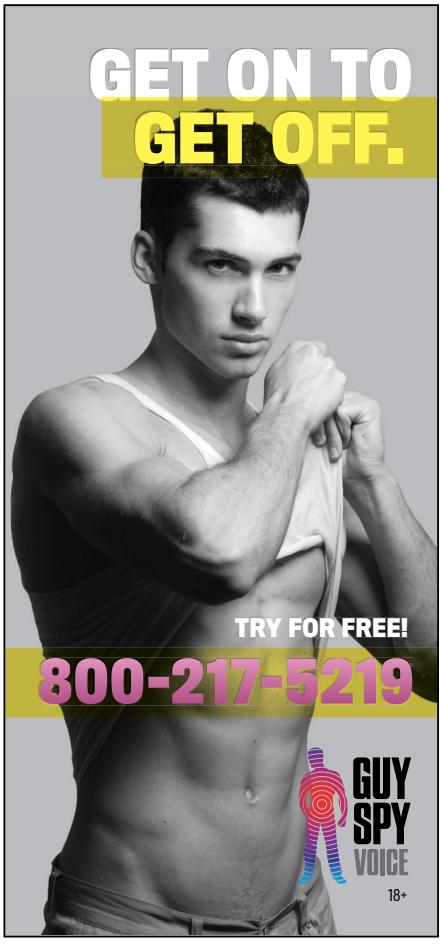

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last word!

Golden Rainbow's Exectutive Director seeks to help more men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS

Gary Costa
Golden Rainbow
Exectutive DIrector

I was recently hired as the new Executive Director of Golden Rainbow here in Las Vegas. On the first day as I sat at my desk I had this incredible sense of déjà-vu. It seems just like yesterday when I first walked into The San Diego AIDS Project to find out more about this "Gay" disease that was making my friends ill.

It was 1985 and I had heard rumors of some disease that was affecting gay men but those stories focused mainly on New York and San Francisco. I certainly had no reason to worry because I was young, and invincible. Or so I thought.

One morning I received a phone call informing me that one of my good friends had been diagnosed with AIDS and didn't have much longer to live. This disease had now become personal and real. The very next day I went to the local AIDS project to pick up some pamphlets and to ask questions.

Within days I was volunteering at the drop-in center, educating myself about the virus and passing that information along to others who would call or drop by. The fear of me or more of my friends contracting this disease was urgent and I took every opportunity I could to encourage my peers to engage in less risky behaviors. I spent every spare minute of my day responding to this crisis; running safer sex workshops, speaking at local college campuses, doing condom demonstrations at the local bathhouses and sex clubs.

We were uniting as a community against a common enemy. Grassroots organizations sprouted up to assist the sick and dying. Other groups formed to plan community responses around prevention. We were all constantly coming up with new and creative ways to raise much needed funds to do our work.

Before long I was hired as the AIDS Programs Director at The Gay and Lesbian Center in Orange County, CA. In this role I was responsible for creating new and innovative programs targeting Gay and Bisexual men. Over the next 10 years I worked in the HIV/AIDS field in various capacities. In 1993, I became the Executive Director of Being Alive: People with AIDS Action Coalition in Los Angeles and was soon elected to serve as the Co-Chair of the Los Angeles HIV Planning Commission. It wasn't until 1997 that things began to change drastically. A medical breakthrough in treatments had begun to show promising results and we began to see people living longer healthier lives. While it wasn't "the cure" we had all been hoping for, it was at least providing some hope to an otherwise bleak period.

It was at about this time that I personally decided to take a break from HIV/AIDS. I figured that the new medications would almost certainly lead to a cure and that before long, the non-profit groups that had been formed to address the crisis would no longer be necessary. I couldn't have been more wrong.

After working for 10 years as an Associate Director at Dartmouth College and then the past 2 years as Executive Director of The LGBT Community Center of The Desert in Palm Springs, I return to the HIV/AIDS community to find that some of the issues we face currently are the same as they were in 1997. Many people living with HIV/AIDS are still in need of basic necessities like food and shelter, proper health insurance and access to medical care and treatment.

For the past 28 years Golden Rainbow has provided housing and direct financial assistance to men, women and children living with AIDS. We currently serve over 200 people with direct financial assistance and provide direct housing for over 25 families. But we can and should be doing more. Not only does the number of people needing our assistance continue to rise, so too does the number of newly diagnosed.

To help address this, we have recommitted ourselves to work with the leadership of our community partners to help spread the message about HIV prevention and testing. We will also be seeking new and innovative ways to serve more people in need of direct services; however we will need your support.

Our signature fundraising event "Ribbon of Life" has become one of the largest HIV/AIDS fundraisers in Nevada. This original production is unlike any other in Las Vegas, featuring custom production numbers from the best singers, dancers and performers from premiere shows on the Vegas strip. This year's event will be held on Sunday, June 22 in the Penn and Teller Theatre at The Rio All-Suite Hotel and Casino. Tickets are available at The Rio Box office at 702-777-7777, at www.RioLasVegas.com or at Ticketmaster.

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1pm

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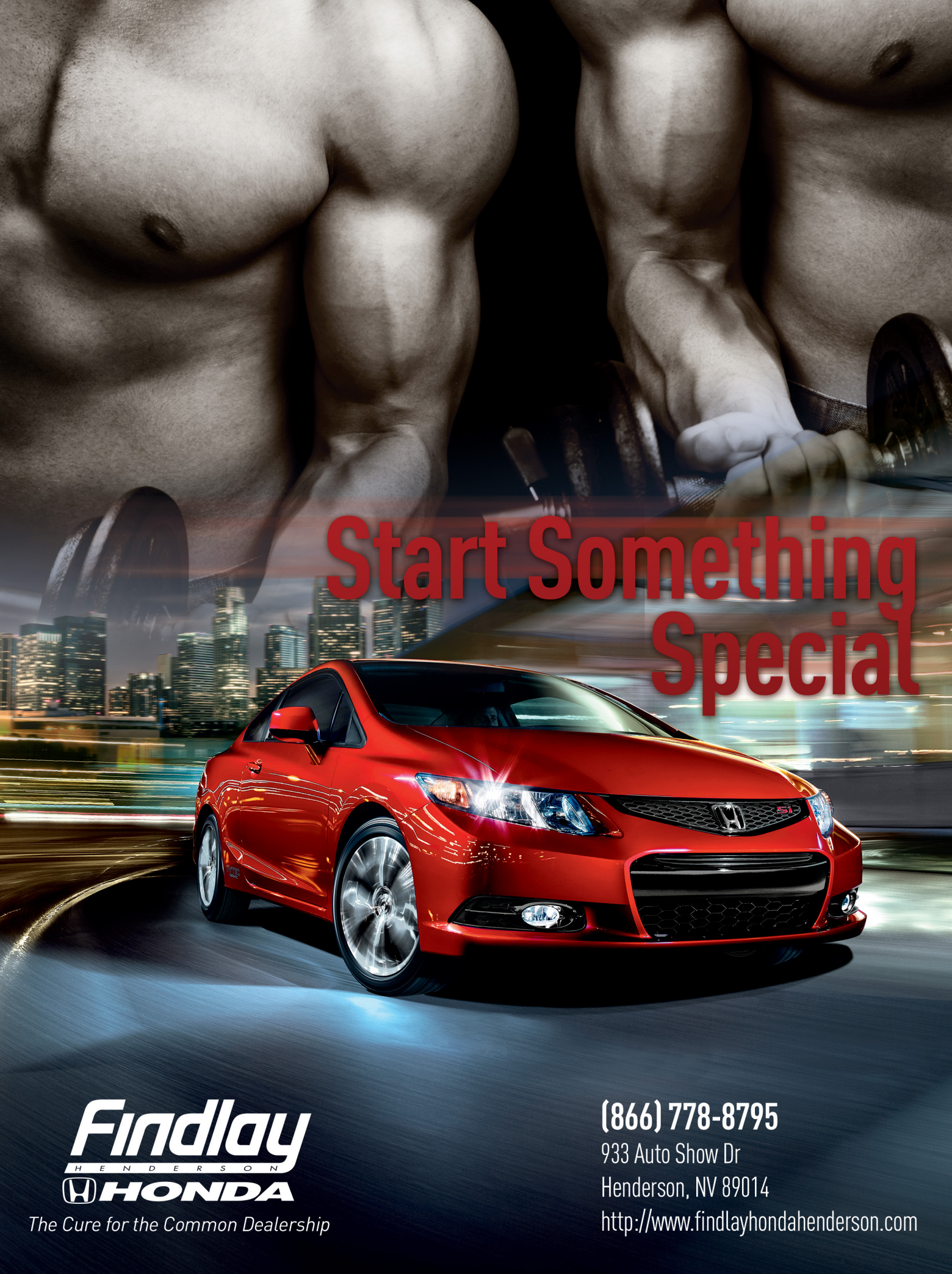

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