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Introducing AFAN's 25th Annual Black and White Party at The Cosmopolitan inside The Boulevard Pool, Saturday, August 27, 2011. Cover artwork & design by Benjamin Lemke, QVegas Creative Director.



JULY 2011 **BLACK & WHITE PARTY** ISSUE

COVER



BOB FORBUSS - TALE OF 2 BOBS

SEE WHY THIS LAS VEGAS LOCAL (BORN & RAISED) IS NOT ONLY A STATESMEN, BUSINESS MAN, AND COMMUNITY LEADER, BUT ALSO A HERO.

AFAN: THE HOPE MAKERS

AIDS IS A WORD THAT STILL EVOKES FEAR IN SOME, BUT MANY OTHERS HAVE GROWN TO ASSOCIATE IT WITH A CAUSE AND THE HOPE FOR A CURE.

JAWKEEN HOWARD

THE UP-AND-COMING CHOREOGRAPHER TALKS ABOUT THE OBSTACLES OF BEING GAY IN THE INDUSTRY AND HIS PASSION FOR HIS ART.

VEGAS PEEPS - BLACK & WHITE PARTY EDITION

Check out these nine individuals and their tireless dedication to fighting HIV/AIDS in Las Vegas with Aid for AIDS of Nevada AFAN.

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a note from our EDITOR IN CHIEF



When I first met Bob I was enamored and still am. But, if only I had known at that first meeting, the impact Bob would make on my life. He is one of those people that every time you walk away you have grown as a person. I hope everyone takes the time and reads a little bit about this man who really is an inspiration to Las Vegas and the LGBT community. Thank you, Bob!

Get Ready for a wild Month, pool parties galore, International Drag Day, Absinthe the month for QVegas readers and one of the biggest gay festivals hits the Strip on July 4th weekend. Enjoy boys and girls!

This issue is dedicated to AFAN Black and White Party and the people of AFAN who make a difference, so check out our PEEPs pages. And, again this year, QVegas is proud to play a leading roll in the event. A special thank you to Benjamin Lemke for all his volunteer time with the print creative. AFAN is hosting the event at The Boulevard Pool inside The Cosmopolitan on Saturday, August 27th. So get those costumes and black and white garb planned because not only is it at the hottest hotel on the Strip, but it is going to be the hottest party of the year. Oh, by the way, its only \$35. Get your tickets early.

Kelly McFarlane Smith

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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AARP

AARP launched a new online Web portal—www.aarp.org/pride—dedicated to serving older lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender (LGBT) Americans. The organization's first online home base for the LGBT community reinforces the fact that pride comes in all ages for LGBT members, friends and loved ones. The site features articles on news, personal finance, relationships, travel and other topics of concern to older gay Americans, and their family and friends, as well as a community forum.

The new www.aarp.org/pride portal offers targeted news, trivia quizzes and information on issues that especially matter to the LGBT community in areas including healthcare, retirement planning, caregiving, taxation, employment discrimination and more. Visitors can access AARP's groundbreaking coverage of relevant topics, including an article from the latest issue of AARP The Magazine examining—three decades after the emergence of HIV/AIDS—the new face of AIDS: people over 50. The portal also features AARP's 20-part multimedia package, The Stonewall Riots: 40 Years Later, A Milestone Anniversary, which won accolades from the LGBT community and mainstream media for its comprehensive coverage of an important chapter in the American civil rights movement. For more information, visit www.aarp.org ■



AIDS WALK LAS VEGAS

AIDS WALK

Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN) hosted the 21st Annual AIDS Walk Las Vegas at the World Market Center on Sunday, April 17, and through unwavering perseverance from the community, raised more than \$461,000.

The famous duo, Penn & Teller served as Grand Marshals for the tenth consecutive year and hosted the Penn & Teller Challenge as their AIDS Walk team, which drew in an unprecedented amount of participants with 1,200 walkers (of the 8,500 total) and raised \$219,000 including Penn & Teller's donating match.

As AFAN's largest fundraiser of the year, proceeds will go towards assisting and educating more than 3,500 men, women and children infected with HIV and AIDS in Southern Nevada. For more information visit afanlv.org ■



CLASSIC CARS WANTED!

Southern Nevada Association of PRIDE, Inc. (SNAPI) is looking for vintage convertible cars for the Las Vegas Pride Night Parade! Are you an owner of a vintage convertible? Do you want over 15,000 spectators seeing your baby in a parade? Now is your chance! Las Vegas Pride Parade Committee is looking for owners of vintage convertibles willing to donate their time and share their car in our fabulous nighttime parade. We are looking for amazing classic cars for special VIP guests: including our Grand Marshal, Mr. and Miss Las Vegas Pride, Special VIP's and Former Royalty. If you can enter your classic convertible in this year's Pride parade, please contact Parade Chairman, Ernie Yuen, at Parade@lasvegaspride.org.



INTO THE BOLLYWOODS

Bollywood, Bindi and Beads (Oh my!): Jai Ho! Jai Ho! It's off to work we go! Arun Mathai will lead the cast as Jai (Jack) of Jai (Jack) and the Beanstalk, part of blue13 dance company's World Premiere production of INTO THE BOLLYWOODS, a spectacular Indian dance and music fairytale filled with magical beans, princes charming, wicked witches and a Bollywood-dancing world of intertwined tales inspired by classics like Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Rapunzel, Hansel & Gretel and Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Friday and Saturday, July 22 and 23, 2011 at 8:30 p.m. at the Ford Amphitheatre; 2580 Cahuenga Boulevard East, Hollywood, CA 90068. Tickets may be purchased from the Ford Amphitheatre Box Office by calling 323-461-3673 (323-GO-1-FORD for non-visual media), or online at fordtheatres.org ■





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GARDEN OF HOPE

AFAN Opens Housing and a Garden of Hope
AFAN is opening a new facility for Valley residents living with HIV/AIDS, "Casa de Esperanza". This property is being refurbished through the help of local volunteers. Groups such as Stonewall Democrats and The Betty's all of whom will be donating time to clean and paint the facility.

The property is also the site of the "Jardins de Esperanza" or "Gardens of Hope" an organic garden meant to help supplement the diets of AFAN clients while reducing the financial burden of purchasing food on a limited income. Spearheaded by Diversity Outreach Consultant, Derek Washington, "the garden is one way of helping AFAN help its clients while acknowledging the hard economic times they and the agency are going through", says Washington. "Like most non-profits, AFAN has been hit hard by the economic meltdown but we are encouraged that with volunteer efforts the 'Jardin de Esperanza' will help us provide for our clients while keeping costs to a minimum", say AFAN Director Jennifer Morss.

QVegas Magazine will be sponsoring a growing plot at the new gardens and encourage others to do the same. Email: derek@afanlv.org ■



INTERNATIONAL DRAG DAY

Where's My Lesbian, an international LGBTQ artist website, is celebrating International Drag Day (IDD) for the second year in Las Vegas on Saturday July 16, 2011 at Tommy Rockers, 4275 Dean Martin Drive, from 7pm – 9pm. The celebration will consist of a drag musical featuring various performances from local Kings and Queens, centering on safe sex. The evening is a 21+ event and will offer raffles, drink specials, food, a guest performance and audience involvement. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per person; proceeds will benefit the Sin City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence AIDS Drug Assistance Program (SADAP). Audiences are encouraged to come dressed in drag and celebrate with the

performing Kings and Queens. International Drag Day was created to give Drag Artists a well deserved chance to shine and be celebrated for everything they give to gay life and culture. ■



IN MEMORIAM: DAVID MILLER (TRULY LA FEMME)

The community lost a champion for a change and one of its biggest stars on June 6, 2011 with the untimely and tragic passing of David "Maxx" Miller A.K.A. Truly La Femme. Truly La Femme burst onto the LGBTQ scene in 1999 when she was crowned Miss NGR. This was followed by many positions within the Imperial Court; including, ICPR I, and culminating into the honored titled of Empress II of The Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of The Desert Empire Inc., reigning beside Terry Freeman as Emperor. Together they endeavored to effect change within the community and to make lives better for all members of the LGBTQ community. To mention only a few outstanding achievements of their reign, Truly and Terry created the TNT Scholarship Fund (Terry and Truly) designed to assist in the educational needs of the underprivileged in need of assistance to attain the dream of a higher education. They also created the Juan Ochoa Memorial Fund structured to assist with final financial support for families to say good-bye to their loved ones with dignity and pride. This drive to ignite a flame within the others to fight for change and equality burned within Truly until the end. While juggling the many responsibilities

and commitments eagerly taken on within the community, Truly also continued to reach for the dream of becoming a Registered Nurse by attending college and attacking the required curriculum with the same fervor given other projects in her life. Without question one of the wittiest people to ever grasp a microphone in this city; not one person who ever came in contact with this entertainer can say they did not double over in laughter at a comment made by Truly; so often delivered with the slightest of southern accents and charm. We tip our hats and tiaras to you my friend for all that you have done and all that you planned to do. The curtain has fallen on one of the best friends this community will ever know. ■

MATT ZARLEY

Matt Zarley has received critical acclaim as an openly gay singer/songwriter; has been named one of People Magazine's "Hottest Bachelors"; has performed on Broadway; and, has had Billboard Dance hits. Now, the handsome singer is asking that all too familiar question - "What the f*ck?" with his latest single, "WTF," from the forthcoming CD, "Change Begins With Me."

Zarley, like many songwriters finds his inspiration in heartbreak. With "WTF" Zarley used a short-lived whirlwind-of-a-romance with a famous actor (who shall remain nameless) as the basis of this infectious tune. "Last year I had an intense romance with someone and then just as unexpectedly as it began – it ended," says Zarley. "But, it didn't just end - he completely severed all communication for no reason and actually broke my heart, leaving me to say to myself 'What the f*ck?' Matt's full music catalog and music videos are currently available online through iTunes and at www.MattZarley.com "WTF" (original version and Moto Blanco and Wideboys remixes) will also be featured on Matt's forthcoming CD, "Change Begins with Me," set for release in Summer 2011 ■



VEGAS LOCAL HOLDS NOTHING BACK IN TELL-ALL MEMOIR

Growing up in the Bible Belt with a conservative mother and preacher father isn't easy when you're attracted to boys, especially if you're also hyperactive. An arrest during a sting at an adult bookstore leads to him attending a Baptist prep academy away from his family. He enjoys his time there but quickly moves away from home after graduation. Headrick's life changes again when he meets "Madame" Wayland Flowers, who gives him a taste of Hollywood. Eventually he begins living as an adult video star, performing as Blake McDonald.

Tell Secrets – Tell No Lies follows Headrick's story as he first models, strips and works in the escort servicing, encountering celebrities and a world of perversion and malice. This provocative memoir serves up



details of life as an adult video star: hanging out with drag queens, a weekend trip to New York City that leads to a risky romance, his first porn video and posing for a magazine. Headrick holds nothing back, relaying both juicy details about escort encounters and glimpses of the love that fills the homes he has shared with his lifelong companion.

Author Bruce Headrick set off to explore the world and make his mark in it on his 17th birthday, having lived in Tennessee, Mississippi and Texas. He and his partner, David, live in Las Vegas. His work has been mentioned on "Chelsea Lately," "The Howard Stern Show" and the "National Enquirer." It's his hope that the book will give strength to anyone "struggling with being different, facing the bullies, feeling alone in the battle" to be themselves. Please visit the author's website at www.tellsecretstellnoies.com ■

BLUEMOON HOTEL FOR MEN

by William Bessette

John Hessling opened the Blue Moon Resort in 2003, brainstorming the business after spending 13 years in the hotel business working for other properties. Since then, the property has served a unique niche that, prior to its arrival, was missing in Las Vegas. In a city with hundreds of thousands of hotel rooms, it is only fitting that few of them be dedicated to the gay community. With big plans on the horizon, Hessling talks about his groundbreaking establishment.

W: Was it hard finding investors for this concept?

J: No, I actually had more than I needed. I originally had two main investors and I was blessed to come across my business partner Joe LaMarca, who came in and bought out both of my original investors. So, now it's myself and Joe as the owners.

W: Being the first of its kind in Las Vegas, were you worried about failure?

J: I never really had a fear that it wasn't going to work, it was more the difficulty of actually running and being responsible for every last square inch of opening the place, fixing the place, staffing it. I had a boyfriend at the time who was great moral support who, had I not had him, I would have lost my mind. After a few years, after things settled down I embraced that I wasn't going to make everyone happy, but it seemed to work out. With Joe's mentorship and business savvy, he's been an integral part in making sure we survived.

W: How to you overcome the stigma that can potentially come along with a place like this?

J: I tell you, that has been the bane of my existence, since opening it up. I have always wanted to create a quality, clean, and safe environment for gay guys to

come and have a good time, free from all the people ogling them if they want to kiss or hold hands. What I didn't realize is that there is such a strong stigma. People automatically assume that if it's a gay hotel, it's a dark-halled bathhouse, no offense to bathhouses, as they have their place. I pride myself on having a very clean, well run, hotel. There are a lot of locals who won't come here because of what they perceive it to be, and that's a shame because a lot of people have a great time here.

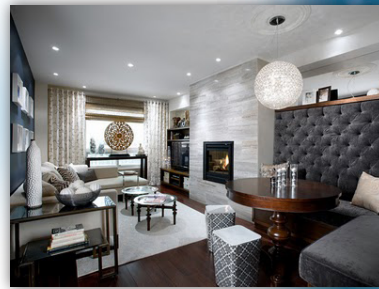
W: You've got some big renovations coming up, yes?

J: We went through a million dollar renovation three years ago, which completely stripped down all of our rooms, refurnished and redesigned them from top to bottom. I then began to identify that we need to get a bar and need to be able to serve alcohol. We've been pursuing a liquor license and believe we are close to getting it. In preparation for that, I've started a facelift and redesign of the common areas to give the hotel a little more of a heart, a center, when they are not at the pool, just a place for them to hang out.

W: Any big summer activities coming up?

J: We've got the regular holiday parties. Over the July 4th weekend we've got the Body Boys United coming back for their third year, which is a black and Latino fitness group. Other than that we didn't schedule a lot of things this year in order to focus on the renovations. We still do have the free barbeque on Sundays which is very popular with the locals. ■

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CENTER PAGE

GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

ART RAGEOUS VEGAS

ARTrageous Vegas is Back!

Charles Béraud

The Center's ARTrageous Vegas, one of its largest fundraisers and eagerly anticipated events, returns Saturday, July 23, 2011 with a new venue... The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas!

"What is 'art' to you? That question is the jumping point of the event," says Desiree Duncan, who spearheads the organizing committee again this year. "We want to explore the many facets of artistic expression and perhaps broaden the scope of what one might consider art – create an interactive space for exploration and discovery that would also shake things up."

The intention of ARTrageous Vegas! is to make art more accessible with the idea that we are all creative souls in our own way with an emphasis on the commonality between us being ART and the many ways in which it can be expressed. As such, the programming for the evening will include a fashion show featuring original creations by local, avant-garde designers, live performances, body painting and more.

The evening will kick off at 6 p.m. with The Center's Art show and reception, which grows each year and attracts up and coming as well as established artists in the community. It will be followed by an evening of diverse programming providing myriad variations on the main theme of art. While there will be performances and activities taking place in the main Commons space, a number of salons will offer additional programming including live painting, burlesque, freestyle and of course, given the location, *just the right amount of wrong*.

"We're excited to partner with The Cosmopolitan, whose mission of satisfying cultural sensibilities and foster a greater awareness, understanding, and appreciation of art and music; all the while reaching audiences that might otherwise look past Las Vegas as an art destination. It goes hand in hand with the theme of ARTrageous Vegas!" says Candice Nichols, Executive Director of the Center.

Be part of this celebration of art in its many forms. Check out the Center's website www.thecenterlv.org

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EC TWINS

Born and raised in the U.K., Marc and Allister Blackham, also known as the “EC Twins,” initially immersed themselves into the house music scene in Edinburgh, Scotland at age 16. They quickly evolved from flyer boys to running Edinburgh’s most successful club: Eye Candy. The twins excelled, drawing in crowds and keeping Eye Candy packed to capacity night after night. The name Eye Candy stuck, as they are still known around the world as the EC Twins.

In 2005, the EC Twins decided to make one last attempt at bringing house music to Los Angeles, despite its lack of popularity on the West Coast. Starting from the ground up, the EC Twins began developing a dedicated local fan base, funneling all of their finances into their music and performances around town. After years of struggling and finding themselves virtually homeless, the EC Twins finally proved to L.A. that they could pack any club, underground to A-list.

Today, the EC Twins are L.A.’s highest-demanded house music DJ’s. Known for their incredibly contagious energy, the duo has performed as opening acts for artists such as the Black Eyed Peas, Gym Class Heroes, Avenged Sevenfold, Shaggy, and Avril Lavigne. In addition to playing at festivals such as the Electric Daisy Carnival, Ultra Music Festival and the Winter Music Conference, the EC Twins currently have residencies at New York’s Lavo, **Marquee in Las Vegas** and Liv in Miami. Their talent and reputation transformed the Hollywood party scene with their “Electronic Boutique” at top Los Angeles nightclubs including Guys and Dolls, Eden and Drais Hollywood.

The EC Twins have proven to the world that they are landmarks in the electronic scene, not only as well respected DJ’s, but also highly sought out producers. The talented duo have achieved top 10 success with their remix of Andy Caldwell’s “Scream” and a remix of Second Sun & Paul Harris’s “Doing It Well”, which outsold the original 8:1. The EC Twins and Remy Le Duc “Say Yes” featuring Shakeh EP is available on iTunes and quickly hit the top 40 on the Beatport Progressive House Charts. Their remix, with Remy Le Duc, of David Garcia & High Spies “All Here Now” featuring Sarah Tancer also broke the top 10 on Billboard’s



ec twins

Dance charts, again with thanks to the EC Twins remix sales trumping those of the original, a testament to the world that the EC Twins are here to stay. Next up, the EC Twins are releasing the highly anticipated remix of the Grammy award winning Dirty Vegas’ “Little White Doves”, on Paul Oakenfold’s PERFECTO records through Armin Van Burens ARMADA. This is only the beginning of more original releases and remixes lined up for 2011, continually working hard to pave the way for house music on a global scale. ■



THE MAGIC OF PARIS

Sleight of hand artist Stephane Vanel makes his headlining debut at Paris Las Vegas in The Magic of Paris beginning. The show introduces an eclectic and uniquely European-inspired approach to the art of illusion, promising a performance unlike any other on the Las Vegas Strip. Surrounding the illusion of Vanel, The Magic of Paris also features a multi-talented collection of entertainers including master marionette artist Anthony Rais and fanciful dance numbers.

Produced by Thierry Cohen, The Magic of Paris runs Tuesday through Sunday, dark on Mondays, in the Anthony Cools Experience Showroom with two shows daily at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Tickets are \$30 general admission and \$45 VIP, plus applicable fees, and are on-sale now. Tickets can be purchased at the Paris box office, by calling (877) 374-7469 or visiting www.parislasvegas.com ■



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JEFF TIMMONS HEATING UP CHIPPENDALES

It's going to get even hotter this summer at Chippendales® at the Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas thanks to former 98 Degrees star, Jeff Timmons. Not only has he made the temperature rise as the show's Special Musical Guest Star and Emcee but, the popstar has been extended through June 19. While Chippendales is host to mostly women, the show is gay friendly, so get a group together and come play with Jeff because it's hotter than 98 degrees in that showroom. "Being a part of Chippendales has been the most fun I have had in my 17-year career in show business," says Timmons. "I am truly blessed that Las Vegas audiences and critics have embraced me and made me feel so welcomed in this amazing city. I am thrilled to be spending the summer on stage singing with these great guys and having the chance to perform each week for my fans both old and new!"

Chippendales, one of the world's most recognized brand names and the premier provider of entertainment. For additional information visit www.chippendales.com ■



ROUVEN'S ILLUSIONS

Rouven has been mesmerizing audiences all over the world with his one-of-a-kind illusions. Using many dangerous creations he has devised to build an intense atmosphere, fans simply watch in awe, and fear, as he continues to cheat death many times in one show. This drive to go close to the edge brought him to the attention of Germany's Pop-star, Michelle, who decided he would become her opening act. Never before had an illusionist opened for a singer and just like his act, Rouven broke boundaries, touring more than 35 cities to sold-out crowds. Rouven was a hit. Soon after, he began performing his



own longstanding show at Europe's biggest revue-theatre, the legendary Royal Palace in Alsace, France. The show became known as "The Man With Nine Lives." Accolades followed as Rouven has been honored with some of the most important international awards of the entertainment industry such as the "Magician of the Year," following magic greats David Copperfield and Siegfried & Roy; "Audience Award Monte Carlo Magic Stars" presented by Princess Stephanie of Monaco; and "Entertainer of the Year" which is selected by more than 37,000 members of the biggest magic society worldwide.

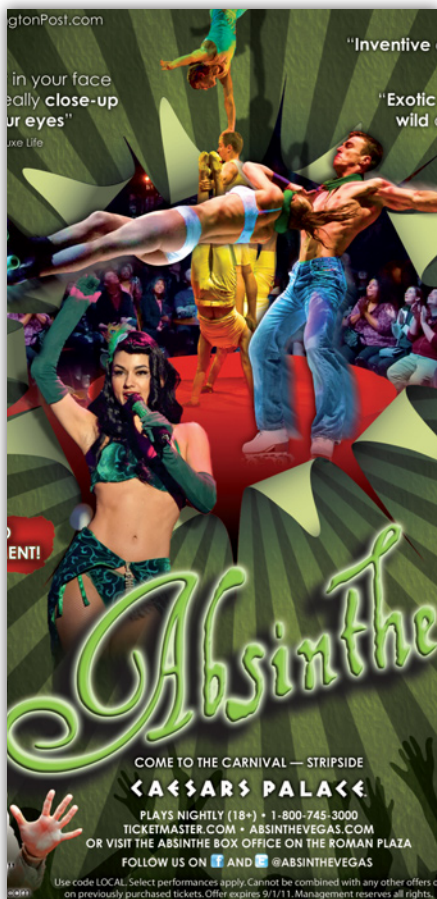
ILLUSIONS opens **July 1** and will astound audiences Thursdays – Tuesdays (dark Wednesdays) at 7 p.m. with his original nail-biting inducing illusions performed with debonair charm and a handsome smile. Tickets are on sale now, starting at \$49, and can be purchased by calling (702) 800-5888, online at www.illusionsvegas.com ■

"THE BEST DAMN SHOW ON EARTH" LOVES GAYS

If you are gay and have not seen it yet, WTF. The hottest new show on the Strip, quite possible in the world loves gays so much they are getting \$20 off their ticket during July! ABSINTHE, a mix of decadence, imagination, carnival and old world burlesque, is wowing audiences Stripside on the Roman Plaza at Caesars Palace for a limited engagement this summer only and now QVegas readers can enjoy the decadence for \$20 less.

A surreal experience for adults, ABSINTHE features wild and outlandish acts in a theatre-in-the-round presentation. Audiences are treated to a night of imagination and excess with performances that amaze and inspire. The cast of eccentrics, evoke thrills and chills as they perform amazing feats of virtuosity within mere feet of the audience surrounding the intimate stage.

ABSINTHE performs Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. and Wednesday and Sunday at 7:30 p.m., with no show on Monday. For discount tickets visit www.absinthevegas.com/discountoffer_2.html Use Code ABS20 when ordering and save \$20 per ticket! Or visit QVegas.com and click the rotating banner for direct link to purchase tickets. n



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Visit animalfoundation.com/qvegas/ today to start helping those who are unable to help themselves.

 **the animal foundation**

The Animal Foundation is a non-profit organization operating Nevada's largest animal shelter (Lied Animal Shelter) and animal adoption center.

SIX AND THE SITY

Join the Sin Sity Sisters as they celebrate their sixth birthday! Family friendly bowling! Only \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 18. Includes three games and shoe rental! All proceeds benefit our Sisters AIDS Drug Assistance Program. ■



PHANTOM'S FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

-celebrated its fifth anniversary Thursday, June 23. The Las Vegas production of the worldwide favorite is enjoying enduring success that few other Las Vegas productions have achieved and proves that "Broadway" can and does flourish in Las Vegas. More than 150 cast and crew members work together each night to put on a dazzling experience for the audience. To date, this production has executed more than 500,000 special effects, 11,000 romantic kisses have been shared on stage and the \$5 million chandelier has "crashed" a distance equal to five times the height of Mt. Everest. For a limited time, guests can enjoy a 2 for \$99 ticket offer. This offer can be redeemed by using the code 99PAIR when ordering tickets. The offer is valid through September 4, 2011. For more information please visit www.phantomlasvegas.com.

Photo by: Denise Truscello)

From L to R: Anthony Crivello, Kristi Holden, Andrew Ragone



QUA BATHS RANKS IN TOP 100

Condé Nast Traveler, the renowned luxury travel publication, recently recognized Qua Baths & Spa at Caesars Palace as one of the "Top 100 Resort Spas" in the U.S. Mainland category in the June 2011 issue. The results ranked the lavish Roman-inspired spa 53rd with an overall score of 91 out of 100. Opened in 2006 and located inside the Augustus Tower at Caesars Palace, the stylish 50,000-square-foot Qua Baths & Spa taps into the natural healing powers of hot and cold water therapy featuring Roman Baths, an ancient bathing ritual featuring three pools of varying temperatures. Amenities also include an Arctic Ice Room, Laconium Room, Herbal Steam Room, Cedar Wood Sauna and whirlpool. Offering 51 treatment rooms including three deluxe couples' studios and seven facial rooms, highly trained Artisans perform a full range of treatments and wellness rituals from massages, to Ayurvedic treatments, to hypnotherapy and chakra balancing. Visit www.quabathsandspa.com for more information. ■



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BETTY'S OUTRAGEOUS ADVENTURES'

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JULY 15 - OUT FRIDAYS MONTHLY DANCE PARTY

Join the Betty Board the third Friday of every month, starting July 15, for our all new *Out Fridays Summer Dance Party!* Are you too young to sit home every weekend but don't feel like waiting till midnight to party? Do you still long to tear-up the dance floor but don't want to tangle with the twenty-something's at those other bars? Betty's Out Fridays is the answer you've been waiting for! It's a summer dance party for mature women who are still young at heart! The party starts at 7pm with only a \$5 cover charge. We'll have reasonable drink prices, shot specials, huge non-smoking dance floor, a private smoking patio, free give-aways, raffles, and an appetizer menu. Plus a new, live, "wireless" DJ with unlimited music to fill your musical requests. Join us at The Venue, 6145 W. Sahara Ave. (at Jones, next to CJ's Saloon, previously Bugsy's). ■



DOG ADOPTION SUCCESS STORY

Charly Kayle was busy at work at KKLZ on morning show, when she heard a knock on the studio door. When they answered, they saw a man holding a puppy. "It was the MOST ADORABLE black-face German Shepherd puppy with soulful eyes and a joyful spirit," says Kayle. The puppy, a shelter dog at The Animal Foundation, had been a guest on a partner radio station that morning and was being introduced around the building. Kayle, already an owner of four cats, figured she was too busy to add to her family, but when she saw the pup, she says she "felt loving energy shoot straight through her body and envelop my soul."

Charly adopted the pup from The Animal Foundation and named her Sasha. Charly encourages everyone she meets to adopt a pet and experience the rewarding feeling of saving a life. She adds, "Sasha is the perfect dog, going with us everywhere, bringing amazing joy to our lives." To learn more about The Animal Foundation and adopting a pet, visit: www.animalfoundation.com ■



PENN & TELLER GET KEY TO CITY

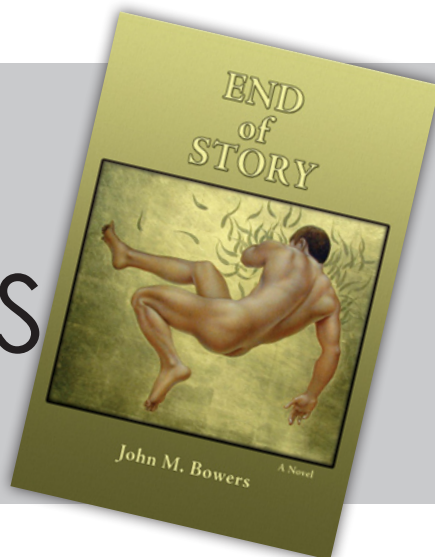
Mayor Oscar Goodman presented renowned magicians Penn & Teller with a key to the city to recognize their dedication to the Las Vegas community and unwavering commitment to helping Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN) fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Together, Penn & Teller have pledged their support to AFAN, leading the Penn & Teller Challenge at the annual AIDS Walk and supporting a variety of AFAN fundraising events including AFAN's annual Black and White Party. ■

5TH ANNUAL
WOMEN OF COLOR
CONFERENCE

5TH ANNUAL WOMEN OF COLOR CONFERENCE

August 1-3, 2011 at the Mandalay Bay Resort. During this three-day conference women of all ethnicities, professions and social backgrounds are invited to participate in fun-filled, interactive sessions and will include, Corporate executives, Community Leaders and Professionals. Keynote speakers share their knowledge and experiences, providing opportunities for deep personal growth and development. Each presenter is a catalyst for change, and are committed to advancing and empowering women leaders. General admission is \$150 and Student is \$75, lunch only \$65. To register visit lvwomenofcolor.com ■

JOHN m BOWERS



UNLV English professor John M. Bowers was not supposed to write the gay novel *End of Story* (Sunstone Press, 2010). He is an expert on Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Tolkien. He was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford and a Guggenheim Fellow at Cambridge. His lectures *The Western Literary Canon* were released in the "Great Courses" series by The Teaching Company.

But when John Bowers taught the first-ever Gay Literature class at UNLV, he noticed that all of the love stories had unhappy endings, usually with one of the partners dead, like *Brokeback Mountain*. The one exception was E. M. Forster's classic *Maurice* published in 1971, a year after the famous author's death, and then made into a romantic Merchant/Ivory film starring Hugh Grant. But Forster's story stops just after the two young men commit to living their lives together -- after going to bed together only twice! Forster's friend Christopher Isherwood, author of *The Single Man*, pleaded for a continuation of their love story: "Alec and Maurice have all their troubles before them. I should love to know what they're doing now."

So Bowers takes Forster's *Maurice*, set in Edwardian England, as the starting-point for his sequel *End of Story* that follow the two lovers Maurice and Alex across the 20th century, from London and Italy, and finally to Santa Fe, New Mexico -- where walk-on characters include D. H. Lawrence and Georgia O'Keeffe -- and the two gay men can live openly in the bohemian community of artists and writers.

What makes the novel really exciting and sexy is a parallel plotline that follows two lovers from the end of the 20th century, Morgan and Eddy, who meet at Studio 54 during the sexual revolution of the 1970s. They weather the AIDS crisis, juggle busy careers, raise a son, and even find themselves at Ground Zero on 9/11 in New York. Theirs becomes the story of love and devotion tested over time.

UNLV novelist Richard Wiley calls *End of Story* "the first important gay novel of the new century ... a moving and convincing investigation of the very nature of love itself." Tiger Byrd agrees: "Hilarious, heartbreaking, and thought-provoking in equal measure, John Bowers' *End of Story* is a *Tales of the City* for the new millennium... Bowers is able to capture the purest essence of what it means to be gay: to be everything and nothing, in the world and of the world at the same time. The unabashedly happy ending amidst the ruins is not just the characters' fates, but speaks to all possibilities for gay men and women."

John Bowers has an easy style of writing which engages and enthralls. The first Amazon review began, "It made me cry." Film producer Joel Castleburg couldn't put it down: "Smart and funny, sad and sexy, beautiful and wise -- no wonder I stayed up all night until I finished *End of Story*!"

One more note of praise. *End of Story* also has a very sexy cover by Santa Fe artist Michael Bergt that will make the book an eye-catching addition to any home library. ■



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EATING out

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A REVIEW OF MARTINIS

A Sunday afternoon in Vegas is always a great chance to spend time with great friends. Mike Pegorin, Mel Avecilla, Adam Mavis and I were doing a "day with the girls" and stopped off for a bite at the hottest new spot in Summerlin. The Martini, located at 1205 South Fort Apache. Everything is scorching about this hot and trendy gem!

As we walked in and found a place to sit at the bar, a sexy and familiar face, Nick Star, greeted us. Nick was a fixture at Krave Nightclub for many years as the sexiest bartender around, until he and his family joined forces to create an amazing experience at The Martini. Nick, a culinary graduate, said he was going to make our mouths happy. We, four giddy gay boys, were not about to turn down a smokin' hot straight man, even if he was talking about food.

The four of us looked like the Sex and the City girls, anticipating our first round of cocktails. And yes, I would be Samantha damn it! As we sipped on the S'mores Martini, ecstasy was the first word in our minds. Nick and the other bartender were at the top of their game, and lookin' sexy as hell doing it!

We started off with Truffled Mac and Cheese and Ahi Tuna Sliders! You would have thought we were virgins "touched for the very first time". The food is AMAZING!!! As we ate, we got the lay of the land from Nick. "We get everyone coming here. In fact, opening weekend, you would have thought we were an after hours gay bar" Nick said. We could see why. Everywhere we looked, gorgeous slapped us in the face. Staff, customers, the ambiance, all smokin' hot!

Next, Creamy Tomato Bisque with Mini Grilled Cheese. Adam was like a lion on the hunt cuz he pounced fast on to the Mini Grilled Cheese! Warm and creamy with just a slight bite! Reminded me of a former date I had once...but I digress!

Mike and Mel lit up when they saw Nick coming with plate number four, the Drunken Kobe Burger with Sweet Potato Fries. This burger was loaded and served with a Cabernet Demi sauce. "I wanna pour this on the staff and lick it off cuz they are FREAKIN hot...and to just say thank you for the delish food" Mike said. To say the burger melted in our mouths would be a lie, it just dissolved! Hands down, BEST BURGER EVER!

Now, the four of us are all friends for a reason. And one of those reasons was coming towards us. Dessert! Deep Fried Oreo Sundae, Deep Fried



FlufferNutter Sandwich and Red Velvet Flapjacks! Bitches were going to be rolling out to the car this day! As Nick placed the plates in front of us, his coy and sexy smile already had us melting. "The FlufferNutter Sandwich is my favorite," he said. "I'd like to fluff his nutter," Mel added in as Nick walked away blushing. To say these desserts were ecstasy would be an understatement! Marshmallow and peanut butter, you just can't go wrong!

As we tried not to burst, Nick placed Pear Martini's in front of us to top off the amazing feast! Sweet and fruity, just like the four of us!

The Martini Las Vegas is a MUST! The staff is sexy, flirty and the nicest crew in town. Their motto is, 'Drink, Dine, Play' and as we rolled out to the car, we were already planning our next D.D.P. date at The Martini Las Vegas! ■



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CHAZ

BY JERRY NUNN | PHOTO BY: WORLD OF WONDER

The public has seen Chastity Bono grow up before their very eyes as the daughter of Sonny and Cher. She was outed as lesbian in the nineties and wrote two books *Family Outing* and *The End of Innocence*. Recently discovering that being transgender was the missing piece to the puzzle, Chastity name changed to Chaz and underwent breast removal surgery documenting it on the OWN network. Transition is the new book that chronicles the personal history of the life of Chaz that has not been revealed before.

Hello, Chaz. We met at Howard Brown when you were speaking there in Chicago.

CHAZ BONO: Right, I remember.

I told you that we would be doing an interview and today is the day. Are you tired of interviews at this point?

CB: Unbelievably so.

Is there one that you think went particularly well?

CB: I enjoyed the Letterman one a lot. I felt like it was a challenge and it gave me a unique opportunity to really talk about the basics.

How are you holding up?

CB: A little tired but looking forward to the holiday weekend.

Are you all over the place at book signings?

CB: I'm not, no. Unfortunately they don't really do that anymore. It is not cost effective and there are not a lot of bookstores. I did two in LA and one in New York. I am going to trans conferences and doing some signings there over the next couple of months.

From an outsider it seems like you are an introvert and your girlfriend Jenny is an extrovert.

CB: Yes, definitely. That is definitely the case.

It is important to educate people about being transgender no matter how difficult it is to be public. I know cases where when someone transitions from a man to a woman and still wants to be with women so is a lesbian technically.

CB: Usually your sexual orientation doesn't change. The two things are not really related. People get confused with "you are gay now, you are straight or you were straight and now you are gay"

instead of just looking at it as someone is attracted to women before and still attracted to them now or men before and still attracted to men.

I watched the documentary *Becoming Chaz*. World of Wonder are great at producing docs and reality shows.

CB: Yes, they do really good stuff and are very talented.

How has everyone's reaction been from the doc?

CB: Great, we have gotten great reviews, very positive reactions. People seem to really like it a lot.

I liked watching you play video games with RuPaul.

CB: Oh yeah, that was good.

Do you have a favorite video game right now?

CB: No, it is kind of a lull right now in the video gaming season. Usually the best time of year for video games is the holiday season, as you would imagine. Sometimes though you will get a nice one in February or March if someone misses their deadline. You might get one or two good games over the summer if you are lucky. I am very unfulfilled in the gaming world at the moment.

I just bought the Playstation Move and that is fun.

CB: That is for casual gamers, which is totally great for kids but none of the ones I like to play are motion detection stuff.

What was your brother's Elijah's reaction to your coming out publicly being transgender?

CB: It was difficult at first and then once he was actually around me after I started transitioning, he told me that it was something that sounded like a really big deal but in reality it just wasn't.

Was your mother Cher judgemental with this process?

continued on page 47 ►►



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ONE THING IS CLEAR WHEN YOU MEET KATE HANSON. NEVER SETTLE IS NOT A THROW-AWAY SLOGAN FOR HER. IT'S NO AKUNA-MATATA, NOR IS IT A HALF-HEARTED CARPE DIEM. IT'S THE CORNERSTONE OF HER LIFE PHILOSOPHY. YOU CAN TELL THE MOMENT YOU SET FOOT IN HER TRAINING STUDIO, NEVER SETTLE FITNESS. THIS IS A LABOR OF LOVE.

KATE HANSON

by Charles Béraud

Opens Never Settle Fitness Studio

This is more than a gym. "I build a personal relationship with my clients. I'm here to help them in every way possible. A lot of people are intimidated by the big gym, and coming here, one on one, they're not being stared at, they're not being judged," says Kate. I think that people get burned out on working out because it's so boring. So I like to switch it up: one week we'll do a lot of weights, then work with ropes, and cardio, and boxing... If you can keep working out fun for somebody, then they're more likely to stick with it than if it's just the same stuff over and over again."

What Kate brings to the table is an incredible amount of empathy. "I know how to work with people who are going through weight-loss, and I know how it feels. I think that a lot of trainers who have just been naturally fit their whole life, they can't understand what it feels like to be that heavy, when your feet are cramping, and you're sweating and you're just really uncomfortable with your body."

Although she's been an athlete her entire life, she was sidetracked – twice. The first time was a miserably stressful stint in a boarding school that saw her abandoning her good habits and tipping the scales at

256 pounds. She trimmed down to a normal weight of 180 pounds in quick order, and maintained it until she was dealt another, devastating blow: the sudden death of her father.

"My dad was my best friend, and as an only child I considered myself lucky to have such a great relationship with both my parents. This was a devastating loss to my life. The control I had seemed to just slip away. I was numb to everything, just going through the motions. Before I realized it, my weight had crept back up to 220. It was at that point that I knew I had to make a serious change. I quit smoking and made a promise to myself: I would never again allow my health to take a backseat to anything ever again."

For Kate, health is about the mind-body-spirit connection: "At the end of the day, you've got to be happy. Happiness is what we're all shooting for in life, and if you're not, then what the hell are we doing, really? It's all about balance. It's about working hard, and being able to go out with your friends and have cocktails. Never Settle is about helping people. And I love helping people. This is definitely a passion of mine." ■

For more information, visit neversettlev.com



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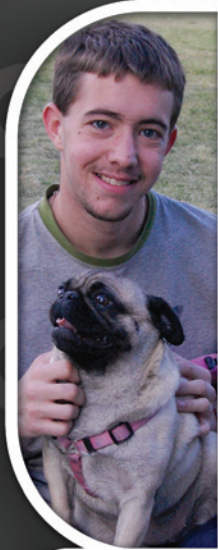
A temporary fix will be to "plug" or fill that hole with dental wax or temporary filling material. You can find these items at your local pharmacy. However, this is only a temporary fix. See Dr. Azimi immediately to avoid causing more extensive damage to the tooth. ■

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Dr. Rachel
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afan:

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AIDS - the very word for some individuals evoke the feelings of fear, loathing or even hatred. For others, it is a word that they have grown to associate with a cause and the hope for a cure.

For the men and woman of AFAN (Aid for AIDS of Nevada, 701 Shadow Lane, Las Vegas, Nevada) it is a word that inspires action, fosters hope and provides opportunity for the nearly two-thousand men, women and children living with the disease who are registered clients of their agency.

As the organization prepares to celebrate their 25th anniversary, AFAN is ready to shake things up- creating innovative new ways to reach the community and continue fighting the good fight, and hopefully, win. Over the past 25 years, community outreach, education and prevention programs, the annual AIDS walk and the decadent Black and White Party held each year are just a few of the events that make AFAN a leader in their field.

Earl Shelton, development director for AFAN, offers a little insight into what is going to make the next 25 years even more powerful in the war against ignorance, intolerance and infection, discuss the organizations greatest accomplishments to date and - wait for it - offer up a sneak preview into this year's Black and White party.

Q: A 25 year anniversary is a huge accomplishment for any organization- looking back in the past and towards the future- what are some of the greatest achievements to date for AFAN and the new goals in motion for the organization?

ES: "Our greatest achievements include being recognized as Non-Profit of the Year in 2006 and receiving the Key to the City, Q-Vegas Nonprofit of the Year, and being voted by our employees as one of the Best Places to Work in Las Vegas this past year. In the new year we are looking forward to receiving a national accreditation for Case Management Services and expanding our current programming."

Q: AFAN is a well known throughout the community for its incredible support, educational and outreach programs for those living with AIDS- what are some, if any, new programs on the horizon for the next 25 years?

ES: "We are excited about offering permanent housing for our clients through two (2) incredible housing communities and expanding services to include more comprehensive programming to meet the ever-growing needs of our clients."

Q: You mentioned you were voted the #1 non-profit organization by Q-Vegas readers (thanks guys!) - Why do you feel the community feels such a sense of pride for what you do- do you find that community support has grown or do you feel there is increased room for growth and how is AFAN attempting to reach more southern Nevada community members?

"AIDS IS A TOPIC MANY FAIN IGNORE ABOUT, SHY AWAY FROM, AND LIVE IN FEAR OF"

ES: "We definitely see a sense of pride from the community supporting AFAN. We share their pride and are humbled by their continued support and generosity. This is apparent in events such as the annual AIDS Walk, Black & White Party, Night of Cabaret, and our Kids' Toy Drive. Support for AFAN programming is evident through these events increases every year."

Q: AFAN gets a majority of its funding through various events held throughout the year. What is the main event that draws in the most support and what are some new events that will allow interested parties to become potential donors or sponsors?

ES: AFAN's largest fundraiser is the annual AIDS Walk Las Vegas event. This community event enlists the support of more than 8,000 walkers raising more than \$500,000. In years

to come, AFAN supporters will see many new fundraising events to compliment some of our newer events such as Night of Cabaret. Keep an eye out for a new AFAN website launching in the next month with a brand new events and community calendar detailing some new ways to get involved. TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!"

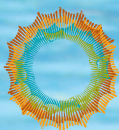
Q: The Black & White Party- it's an event of epic proportions- what will be in store for 2011?

ES: "This year is the 25th year of the Black & White Party. The party will be over the top amazing and really difficult to beat next year. All we can say is everyone will have to check out the party every year for many years to come. We always pack the party with surprises and entertainment around every corner."

SPOILER ALERT: This just in- AFAN will host their extravagant 25th Anniversary Black & White Party at The Cosmopolitan, Boulevard Pool -Aug 27th. Must be 21 years of age or older. Tickets to the event include complimentary drinks, cuisine tasting and more.

Q: Camp courage at big bear for children affected by AIDS- please- tell me how this program came to be and what-if any- adult, marital or relationship events are held for AFAN members. Who develops these retreats and who can become involved?

ES: In 2007 Camp Courage was developed to provide an annual summer camp experience for our children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. As HIV disease has evolved, our organization has many more clients who are also parents. In developing new programs, our staff voiced the need to do more with the children who either access services at AFAN themselves, or who regularly visit the office with their parents. As a result, AFAN started Camp Courage. In years to come, the community will see the expansion of this program to include 2 camps a year and additional programming for children throughout the year.



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DANCING WITH THE

Divas

Frank Marino has been performing on the strip for over twenty five years. First in Aleman's La Cage at the Riviera, in what was – at the time – a ground breaking show. It was the first and only production drag show on the strip. After closing three years ago, Marino was given a new lease at the Imperial Palace through his new show Divas Las Vegas. Aside from the new performances, including Lady Gaga and Mariah Carey, a major change was the addition of male dancers.

"We had female dancers only and I always thought it should be male dancers just to dwarf the impersonators to begin with," Marino says. "When the girls are small, the impersonators look really large, but now we have these physically larger boy dancers who dance bigger, have more power, and take up more room, so they add better scale to the impersonators. Also the sexy outfits, their beautiful bodies – let's call them gym bodies – gets the women excited, gets the gay guys excited and, I think, gets the straight guys excited, if nothing else because they enjoy seeing their wives have such a good time looking at the guys dancing."

For these male dancers working for Frank Marino in this groundbreaking show is an amazing opportunity, as Joey Lopez, 25, and a Las Vegas native, explains. "It's really interesting, especially being born and raised here in Las Vegas because this is a show that's been around as long as I can remember. Growing up and hearing about the show and knowing who Frank was years before I ever met him and then all of the sudden being in the show and working here kind of feels like I'm kind of continuing the history because everyone knows Divas and everyone knows the show."

While there can sometimes be a cutthroat image where it comes to performers in Las Vegas shows, for 24 year old Donnie Everett of Charlotte, North Carolina, Divas is not that show. "When I first got this job," he says, "I was sitting and talking with one of the impersonators and I was saying to her how much fun I have when I come to work. I really do enjoy the people that I work with and I think a lot of it has to do with the energy everyone has, the dressing rooms, the fun we all have together. I think I have more fun in

the dressing room than I do on stage because I really enjoy being with these people. When you enjoy the people that you work with, it just makes your job so much better."

So how do these guys stay in shape and look so good? Daniel Thomson, 27, also a Las Vegas native explains their routine. "We do the show six nights a week," he explains, "and during the show I will do a full-body workout. Every day I do the same routine and every other week I'll switch it up to a different muscle group, but basically it's the same thing, so I get my workout while I'm at work. Also, every couple days we will do abdominal workouts with all the boys together as a group."

Whether it is to please the boys or please the girls, the Divas dancers don't skimp on looks or energy. They carry a sense of pride with them in being part of such a historical show and it shows. To catch these dynamic dancers in action, you can find them at the Imperial Palace at 10:00pm, six days a week, all year-round. Take it from us; it's more than worth the price of admission! ■

-WILLIAM BESSETTE

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BOBBY TOWNSEND

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THERESA KING

JIM FOLEY

GLENN ALAI

NYCOLE CUMMINGS

DENNIS DUNN

With the help of these nine individuals and their tireless dedication to fighting HIV/AIDS in Las Vegas, Aid for AIDS of Nevada continues to host one-of-a-kind fundraising events and thrive as the state's oldest and largest AIDS Service Organization. Celebrating its silver anniversary, AFAN's Black & White Party has 24 years of successful soirees beneath them that raise more than \$100,000 to support the ongoing dedication to providing essential services to its 3,000 clients. The 2011 Black & White Party will captivate partygoers with the abundance of entertainment and aesthetically appealing decor while providing tastings from some of Las Vegas' premier restaurant and spirit vendors. AFAN's Black & White Party will be held on August 27 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Boulevard Pool at The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas.

VEGAS PEEPS

BLACK & WHITE PARTY

GLENN S. ALAI PENN & TELLER

I first got involved with AFAN in 1997 at the urging of two straight female friends who volunteered me for traffic duty for the annual AIDS Walk. It was the first time I had felt a connection to the Vegas LGBT community outside of a club or a bar. I saw all of the help and good that AFAN was doing for both gay and straight people living with HIV/AIDS. After that I never missed a walk or a Black & White. Ten years ago, much like me friends did to me, I volunteered my bosses, Penn & Teller, to serve as grand marshals for the walk. And like me, they've never missed a walk or a Black & White party.

THERESA KING AFAN VOLUNTEER

I LOVE AFAN because when my family turned their back on me I was all alone and they made me feel like I am somebody; because I AM SOMEBODY! I started helping out a lot at AFAN and I consider them my family. I could never give back to AFAN all they have given to me. One of my favorite events they do is the Black & White Party because I love to socialize and the party so much fun, it is the place to be!

DENNIS DUNN DIRECTOR, NAP

AFAN & Black and White Party is a staple that supports our HIV community and brings donors and recipients together in a safe and joyous event. We come together once a year to celebrate the future and affirm our commitment to a better future for our HIV community. Without fail, each year the organizations that support AFAN's work show their support by tabling at the event. That is why I support AFAN's Black and White party. Our organization Nevada AIDS Project is a proud supporter of AFAN. Over the past several years we have supported AFAN's effort by providing essential furnishings, to deserving clients through our Essential Furnishings Program. With the guidance of the case managers at AFAN we look forward to furnishing clients more requested items in years to come. Our donors and board are committed to funding more programs and support AFAN's efforts in any way we can. Many thanks to Jennifer Morss and all the staff of AFAN.

FABIAN MERA APOTHECARY PHARMACY

I am dedicated to supporting AFAN's mission and the HIV community because it is near

and dear to my heart. Many people aren't aware that I was affected by HIV when I lost my dearest uncle and godfather to the disease in 1999. In fear of being ostracized and judged, he returned to his native land of Ecuador to die a slow death by being treated with common antibiotics for his disease. Since then, I have dedicated my life to helping those in need. The stigmatism and lack of education that surround this disease are the reasons I lost him. My passion to assist AFAN's clients and those individuals infected and affected by this disease are the reasons why I support AFAN and the Black & White Party.

CIRA JONES AFAN DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

I have been involved in the HIV/AIDS community since high school and now have the pleasure of being the Director of Finance for Aid for AIDS of Nevada. I can't wait to see what is in store this year with the party being held at the Cosmopolitan Pool over looking Vegas Blvd. This will be my first Black & White Party outside since starting work at AFAN. I love the Black & White Party for two reasons. One is that as the Director of Finance I know the money is coming into a great organization that helps so many people in our valley. Two is that it is a great party; the food, drink, entertainment, and people are always amazing. See you there!

JENNIFER KARSTEN SENIOR ARTIST MAC PRO TEAM

I speak for MAC artists around the world when I say that the reason we support AFAN is because "Every Day is World AIDS Day at MAC". We have raised \$220 million dollars from the sales of Viva Glam Lipsticks and Lip glasses and it didn't happen overnight, it happened day in and day out and even as we watched loved ones perish. I love the Black and White Party because it's a celebration of life, the good fight, we are winning and it takes every one of us every day doing whatever we can to keep raising awareness, loving despite ignorance and fear and supporting the local organizations who need us so much.

NYCOLE CUMMINGS AFAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I believe in AFAN's mission and admire their commitment to providing vital resources, awareness and education to those living with HIV/AIDS. AFAN provides a safe place for which these individuals are afforded with life

enhancing and health supportive programs while being treated with dignity and respect. The infection rate is still rising which is why we must continue in our efforts to make a difference. I love the black and white party because on this night we party for a cause. Only at the black and white party will you find such a vast variety of food, entertainment, fashion, and personalities.

JIM FOLEY AFAN

The first Black & White Party I attended was in the summer of 1993. The party was held in someone's backyard, pool side. To get in I believe you had to bring \$35 worth of non-perishable groceries or pay a \$35 entrance fee. The individuals that were hosting this party were trying to promote the food pantry at AFAN. It brought me such joy to see how the community came together to support people living with HIV and AIDS. Little did I know 18 years later I would be working for one of the largest and oldest HIV organizations in the state of Nevada. I am so proud to be able to run the programs that I do and serve many clients.

BOBBY TOWNSEND AFAN VOLUNTEER

Finding out you're HIV positive is one of the hardest things in your life to deal with. We don't know who to trust and turn to, and feel like our lives are over. AFAN has been there for me throughout my journey. I was diagnosed January 2010. I was in the hospital terribly ill from the virus and the AFAN staff members would check on my home and keep my family informed of my medical status. They would also comfort my partner and let him know that things were going to be OK. I support the Black & White Party because it brings the world together in Las Vegas to say we know that HIV and AIDS is still around, and the world still cares. The most amazing experience for me was standing on the main stage of AFAN's AIDS Walk, to do the moment of silence, and looking out and seeing over 20,000 people there to support a very good cause. AFAN staff, I cannot thank you enough from the bottom of my heart for all that you have done for me and my family. I don't know where I would be without all the love and support from Las Vegas' #1 AIDS center AFAN (Aid For AIDS Of Nevada). ■



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CHAZ

continued from page 27 ►►

CB: I don't think judgemental is the word but she was not comfortable with me being as masculine as I was before transitioning.

Your relationship seems to be getting better with her right?

CB: Yes.

You mentioned that you weren't comfortable taking pictures throughout the book. Is that better now?

CB: Yes, I am comfortable now. It is not my favorite thing. My photo shoots are still kind of a pain. That is just part of my work, but no, I don't have that same issue that I had before. I used to not like to have my picture taken because I didn't like the way that I looked.

You want more facial hair correct?

CB: I don't have more because I can't grow more right now. It takes a long time for facial hair to grow in. I have some but not in the form that one would want to grow it.

How do you feel about the word "tranny?"

CB: I have a problem with it. It is a derogatory statement in my opinion. I think people shouldn't use it. A lot of gay men use and think it's okay to use it. It just isn't. That is not to say that there are not some transgender people who would not have a problem with their friends saying that just like lots of people in those settings are fine with it. It is not appropriate in with some people and not a good idea. I have gotten on World of Wonder's case about that with RuPaul's Drag Race. They have to stop using that on there.

RuPaul even has a song called "Tranny Chaser."

CB: Yes, it is really different than I think people realize. Doing drag and being transgender are completely different issues. That line gets blurred sometimes and that word gets used and people need to be aware of it.

Any word that people are mistreated over is not good.

CB: Right, exactly.

You and Jenny are engaged currently.

CB: Yes.

She is a knock out and has a great energy.

CB: Thank you.

Anything else you want to say about the book?

CB: I would say there is a universal theme to it that people aren't really getting. It is very

much about overcoming fear and growing up.

You have written other books but this one goes back and explains how you were really feeling.

CB: Absolutely. It is the most I have ever felt like revealing about myself. It is about working through your issues and becoming who you are, whoever that is. For me it was transgender but I think everyone has certain things about themselves that they can't get to because of fear or issues in the past.

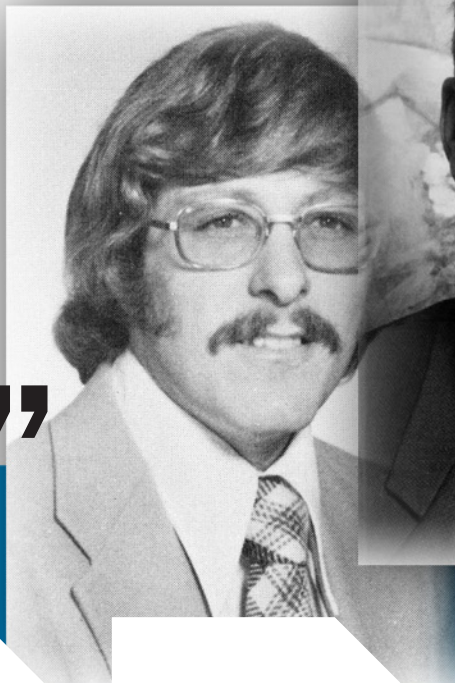
Well, you are brave and we appreciate it for our community.

CB: Thank you. See you again in a week and have a great holiday!

Purchase the book by visiting:
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**“ WE NOW KNOW BOB AS
A STATESMEN, BUSINESS-
MAN AND COMMUNITY
LEADER, BUT THEN, HIS
STUDENTS SAW HIM AS
WILD AND IRREVERENT.
HE WAS THEIR HERO. ”**



A TALE OF TWO BOBS:

BOB FORBUSS

by Richard Davis



Robert Forbuss is a Las Vegas LGBT community pioneer. Born in 1948, Forbuss is a Las Vegas native who grew up in the Huntridge district, now one of Las Vegas' emerging "gayborhoods." His boyhood friends were the Cashmans and the Greenspuns and an early mentor was future Nevada governor and US Senator Richard Bryan. His mother owned a dry cleaners, and Forbuss jokes that his origins are "not unlike Senator Reid's early Las Vegas roots," in reference to Reid's mother being a laundress. He remembers the nuns at St. Anne's Elementary School walking the students over to the Huntridge Theater to see "The Ten Commandments" in 1956. He and his friends would get shakes and fries at the Huntridge Drugstore fountain.

A graduate of Gorman High School, Forbuss did summer stints at the newly opened Caesars Palace while in college. Forbuss says, “I worked in the Executive Office with Jay Sarno, who created Caesars, Jerome Zarowitz, who ran the casino, Sid Gathrid, who originated Caesars’ Roman theme, and Nathan Jacobson, the president of the hotel.” Forbuss says that Sarno financed the hotel with money from his friend, Jimmy Hoffa, head of the Teamsters’ Union, and Forbuss’ casino bosses were the subjects of federal organized crime investigations. He says, “Skimming was a standard among casinos at the time, and I am pretty certain that Caesar’s made lots of money for their investors illegally.” The executive conference room, Forbuss says, “was lined floor, ceiling and walls in lead so the Feds could not eavesdrop.” Forbuss remembers meeting hotel boss Nathan Jacobson’s bright and attractive young secretary, Carolyn Goodman, who Forbuss says even in those days, was “a lady in charge of her office” and able to hold her own against the intense Jacobson, “a very loud man when he got mad.”

Forbuss received a Bachelor’s in political science and public administration at California State University at Long Beach in 1970. He says, “When I graduated from college, I came home and dated women. I knew it wasn’t working for me, but it was easier and more socially acceptable. I did not go to the Red Barn, which was the only gay bar in Las Vegas that I knew about at that time.” Forbuss had known he was gay since he was fourteen when he “found men more attractive than women.” He had his first sexual experience when he was sixteen, but says he didn’t truly experience gayness until he met his first crush, a boy named Lee, while shopping for records at JC Penny, then located downtown at Fremont and 6th Streets.

After a brief slot floorman job at the now defunct Sahara’s, Forbuss was offered a job teaching history and debate at his alma mater, Gorman High. At just 24, he had found his life’s passion. “I loved teaching,” he says. “I was only six years older than my students when I started” and, he says, “I understood the pressure to conform and how important it is to think differently.” Forbuss wore tight pants, sported a moustache and talked and drove fast, according to his students. Forbuss would take his students on field trips to see plays, like the new ‘radical’ musical, “Hair.” “He would pay for hundreds of cups of coffee and orders of French fries almost nightly at the Peppermill,” rapt in discussion with his debate students, a former student recalls. One of his former debate students, Las Vegas City Attorney Jerry Jerbic says, “We did the best we could, not to win a debate trophy, but to make Bob proud of us.” Forbuss’ close friend, former mayor and Harrah’s executive, Jan Jones says, “We now know Bob as a statesmen, businessman and community leader, but then his students saw him as wild and irreverent. He was their hero. It really is a tale of two Bobs.”

Despite loving teaching, Forbuss’ future lay in a different direction. As a summer job while teaching, Forbuss found work as an emergency medical technician at Mercy Ambulance. He soon found himself general manager, and then CEO. Forbuss says, “Las Vegas provided incredible opportunities that few other cities could offer at that time. I loved what I was doing and I loved making a contribution to my community. I was able to take a small company and expand it beyond Nevada to a multimillion dollar enterprise with operations in three states.” But for Forbuss, “It wouldn’t have been enough to just get bigger.” He made his company’s paramedic program a role model and national standard. He says, “Las Vegas provided the creative inspiration needed to make all this happen.” Former Sheriff Bill Young was one of his paramedics.



Greg Rundell worked under Forbuss as a paramedic at Mercy, he says, “Being with [Bob] for ‘The Big Ones’ was a true learning experience—the MGM fire, the Hilton fire, and Pepcon [the industrial explosion in Henderson that shook the entire Las Vegas Valley in 1988]—and some of the smaller ones like Lefty [Rosenthal] getting blown up in his Caddy.” Rundell says, “Long before [the creation of the] Incident Command System [concept] there was the Forbuss Command System and all valley agencies—Metro, the Clark County Fire Department, the Southern Nevada Health District, and area hospitals looked to Bob for counsel.” Debby Gault, one of Forbuss’ former employees at Mercy and now a nationally recognized ambulance industry expert, accounts her success to Forbuss’ mentorship. She said Forbuss’ employees “were forward, outside the box thinkers because when you worked for Bob, that’s what you became.”

Though Forbuss was a successful businessman, he hadn’t forgotten his background in political science or his passion for education.

He had first run for Clark County School Board when he was just 25 and still a freshman teacher at Gorman, “I ran against Dr. Clair Woodbury and lost, but I learned a lot about politics and campaigning.” In his second run for the Board he won “by knocking on everyone’s door and listening to them about the issues.” Forbuss served on the Board for eight years, from 1979 to 1986, serving with another Clark County education leader, Helen Cannon. At that time Chris Giunchigliani, now a Clark County Commissioner and a recent mayoral candidate, was president of the Teachers’ Union. Forbuss said, “When I was on the School Board, she came to every single meeting and we had a few confrontations over labor negotiations.” He remains good friends with Giunchigliani, whom he describes as a tough fighter and very smart. Forbuss said, “I love Chris and Gary [Giunchigliani’s husband, businessman Gary Gray].”

(Prior to Carolyn Goodman’s recent victory in the Las Vegas mayoral race, Forbuss diplomatically commented that “Las Vegas is in great hands, regardless of who wins!” He said, “I have known both Carolyn and Chris for many years—and they are both dedicated and dynamic individuals. I have known Carolyn longer. Recall, I met Carolyn when I worked at Caesars Palace in 1966. I met Chris in 1980 when she was president of the Teachers’ Union. Chris has always been out-front and supportive of LGBT issues—even before that stance was safe.” It was this fact that tilted his support to Giunchigliani, but he adds, “This election was hard because I like them both.”)

Meanwhile, Forbuss was still in the closet. He says, “I wasn’t publicly out during the time I was on the School Board. However, in October of 1981—just a couple of years into my term on the Board, I met Jerry Cade. I am convinced that Jerry was born out!” Forbuss says Cade forced him out of his closet, “I promised Jerry that the day I was no longer on the School Board, I would start going out in Las Vegas.” Forbuss kept that promise and the night his term ended, he says, “Jerry Cade took me to Gelo’s (now 8 ½) for my first trip ever to a gay bar in Las Vegas. That was in 1986.” Forbuss says he was “nervous” sipping his beer to the 80’s disco beat. But he was “fresh” and he says, “A very handsome young man kept hitting on me all night.” Jerry Cade says, “I can vouch that the guy was incredibly cute!” Yet Forbuss remained reticent about being ‘out.’ His close friend, former mayor, Jan Jones says, “For years Bob was the most eligible bachelor in Las Vegas. Nobody knew he was gay! Right after I was elected mayor in 1991, at a fund-raiser at Jerry Cade’s, Jerry grabbed Bob and gave him a huge kiss and said, ‘See, that wasn’t so hard.’”

Despite being closeted while on the School Board, Forbuss fought hard for LGBT issues. He says, “There were times on the school board that issues surrounding gay teachers and their suitability for employment were raised, so even

though I wasn't out, I was able to be supportive." One incident occurred, Forbuss wrote in a campaign letter supporting Guinchigliani's candidacy for mayor, when "Chris [Guinchigliani] took on the school district over their reaction to the first teacher to be diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. Chris' principled fight was a turning point in how HIV/AIDS employees were treated." At the time, Forbuss was with his first partner, Scott, an accountant who was also closeted. He says being so prominent in the community and being closeted, "was very difficult for both of us." Forbuss has been partnered four times, he says, "with four very wonderful men, whom I still care about a great deal—Scott for eleven years, David for two years, another David for two years and Stan for twelve years."

The reticently out Forbuss was very active "mostly behind the scenes," he says, in the repeal of Nevada's sodomy law in 1993. Jerry Cade says, "Every time we needed money for anything that had to do with repealing the sodomy law, Bob wrote a check. He probably personally financed over half the money we spent repealing the law." The sodomy law's repeal convinced Forbuss that the LGBT community needs both Democrats and Republicans as allies, he said. "One of the heroes of the sodomy law repeal in 1993 was Republican State Senator Mark James and he had the support of [then] Republican Senate Majority Leader Bill Raggio."

LGBT community ally, Congresswoman Shelley Berkley says Forbuss has a "sense of shared Nevada values," and it is those shared values that Forbuss says enables him to work with both Democrats and Republicans to advance LGBT issues. He says, "Recall, it took two-thirds of the entire Legislature—Democrat and Republican—to overturn Governor Jim Gibbon's veto on our domestic partner legislation in 2009." Forbuss points to Republican State Senator Dennis Nolan, a former paramedic who worked under him at Mercy, as an example of a Republican ally who voted to override the Governor's veto. Forbuss believes that Republican Governor Sandoval is also an ally today. As proof he notes that, "Dale Erquiaga, Senior Advisor to the Governor, is openly gay."

Forbuss went on to serve on the politically powerful Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce in 1985, serving two terms as Chamber president in 1999 and 2000. Though he lost a run for University Regent in 2002, he says, "as a consolation prize," he was appointed to serve on the board of the influential Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, where he served for six years. Forbuss says, "By the time I became president of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce in 1999, being gay was no longer an issue." Forbuss' other community leadership roles have been as president of the Rotary Club, president of the Boys and Girls Clubs, and on the board of KNPR—"Just to name a few," he says.

Forbuss' Las Vegas political "juice" was perhaps most evident in the 90's during the tenure



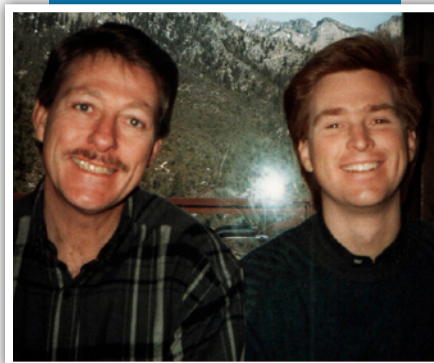
Highschool debate team posing 38 years later at Bob Forbuss Roast.



Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV), Bob, & Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D).



President Bill Clinton & Bob.



Bob and his first partner Scott Larson 1987

of former mayor Jan Jones. Jones says Forbuss served as mayoral confidant and sounding board during her almost decade as mayor, although their relationship is foremost a personal one. Forbuss says, "I met Jan Jones, when she was married to [car dealer] Fletcher Jones—before her first campaign for mayor in 1991." He jokes, "If I were straight, I would have married her!" Forbuss says that Jones' children "are like my adopted children." Jones, who served as mayor as a single mom, says, "Bob was a surrogate father, surrogate husband." Forbuss says, "I have spent Thanksgiving and Christmas with Jan Jones, her children, and Jerry [Cade] and his partner, for many years. It's like one big non-traditional family for us all." Though Jones pushed for recognition of domestic partnerships as mayor, Forbuss says she was barred by state law from taking action since Nevada cities and counties lack home rule, therefore it took the Legislature to enact the 2009 legislation. But Forbuss says, "Jan was always fully supportive of domestic partnerships. Actually, Jan supports marriage equality."

When Jones ran twice for governor, Forbuss was intimately involved in both of her campaigns. Forbuss served as her finance chair for the second run. Forbuss does not believe that Jones' double loss was due to the state's perennial North-South rivalry. He says, "After all, the first race in 1995 was against Governor Bob Miller, who is also from Clark County. Governor Miller was a good and popular Democratic governor, but Jan ran against him because of her commitment to certain issues, like mental health, that he had cut to balance the budget." Forbuss says, "It was a bit of a quixotic campaign, but that's Jan!" He says, "The second race in 1999 against Republican candidate Kenny Guinn was in response to a last minute plea by many Democrats for a strong opponent in the governor's race. Of course, Democrats wanted to win the governorship, but, they also were afraid a weak Democratic opponent [in the governor's race] might stall Senator Harry Reid's attempt at a third term. If Jan hadn't been in the 1999 gubernatorial race, Senator Reid very well might not have beaten [then] Congressman John Ensign by the 401 votes by which he won. Jan brought more Democrats to the polls, who then also cast their vote for Senator Reid." And a good thing too, because Forbuss says, "Senator Reid has been a great advocate for the LGBT community."

Likewise, Forbuss singles out Congresswoman Shelley Berkley as an important LGBT community ally, "Shelley has always been there for us." Berkley says, "I've known Bob since my days in law school and he has supported me throughout my career, but it is our personal friendship for which I am the most grateful." She says that Forbuss' deep roots in Southern Nevada and his knowledge of the community has helped elected officials "to define key issues" and "to find solutions."

Forbuss says that State Senator David Parks is

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

QBA MEMBER PROFILE



the animal foundation



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afan:
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► continued from page 34

Camp Courage, as with all AFAN events, are coordinated through AFAN's Development Staff. If you are interested in participating in our events as a donor, volunteer, or are interested in assisting with planning, please contact Earl Shelton at earl@afanlv.org

Q: AIDS - it is a topic many fear, ignore about, shy away from and live in fear of. AFAN uses education and training to educate the masses on AIDS awareness and prevention- what in the coming years is the organization doing to reach out to the community to ensure this information reaches everyone no matter age, sex, nationality or sexual preference?

ES: "We have recently contracted with Derek Washington as our New Media and Diversity Outreach Consultant. Derek is working on expanding AFAN's outreach efforts in the area of reaching communities of color. We are thrilled to have Derek on our team and look forward to the success of his efforts in reaching more diverse population with HIV prevention messages and testing."

Q: Do you feel that AIDS awareness in the community has grown or do you still find ignorance and intolerance still to be more in the mainstream?

ES: "We see a little of both. Ignorance is still very much apparent in our society. People living with HIV/AIDS still face stigma and prejudice attitudes by society. On the other side, we also see an attitude of complacency when it comes to supporting HIV organizations and prevention efforts, nationally. This is not a fight that is over and, while we've experienced great accomplishments, we still have a distance yet to travel. HIV is not over. There is still no cure."

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“our community hero” because “few individuals have done more to change the [legal and political] landscape for the LGBT community.” Forbuss is also excited about the new LGBT leadership that is emerging in Las Vegas and has a national presence. He lauds Joshua Miller for helping to re-establish Las Vegas’ “very active chapter of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC)” and for serving on HRC’s national board. Forbuss is also proud of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD)—“for which I have served on the national board along with Dr. Thom Reilly.” He says, “Several members of the national board of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund are from Las Vegas.” Tod Story, of Congresswomen Shelley Berkley’s office, says that Forbuss himself helped to mentor many of these emerging leaders. Story says, “Bob always involves anyone who is interested in politics and, ever the educator, teaches them about the process.” Story says, Forbuss mentored “many of us, young, college Democrats,” inviting them to his home to meet well-known state and national political names.” Forbuss hosted many political fund-raisers for the likes of Jan Jones, Ted and Patrick Kennedy, Barney Frank, and Shelley Berkley in the home that he designed and built in Rancho Bel Air in 1986. But not all was political, Forbuss says, “In the late 80s and 90s, I had many gay Halloween and New Year’s Eve parties at that house that are still the talk of Las Vegas.”

When community leaders talk about Forbuss, it is his personal friendship that comes first to mind. Joshua Miller, president of KeyState Corporate Management, serves on HRC’s Las Vegas Steering Committee and was named to HRC’s national Board of Directors in October 2010. Miller says, “Bob took me under his wing over ten years ago. I was young executive and strongly urged me to get involved in the community and make my mark. He pushed me to find time away from my busy work schedule and get involved. Over a number of years, I became involved in the Las Vegas Chamber, the Public Education Foundation, and the Nevada Taxicab Authority—all organizations where Bob was a key leader for many, many years. Bob’s early participation as an HRC Federal Club member was key to HRC’s success in Las Vegas. I’m lucky to have him as a close friend and mentor.”

Candice Nichols, director of the Gay and Lesbian Center of Southern Nevada, shares a story about Forbuss’ mentorship. She recalls, “Right after Proposition 8 passed in California to overturn gay marriage, the Center had a community rally.” She says Forbuss was not necessarily convinced about the political wisdom of having a rally. But Nichols said, “When he looked down the street and saw 2,000 people, tears came to his eyes and he said, ‘We need to make sure the Center has a building.’” Immediately, Nichols said, Forbuss had the vision and she knew she had his support. Nonetheless, it is Forbuss’ friendship that means the most to

Nichols, she said, “He will just drop in to say, ‘You’re doing a great job,’ he takes the time to say, ‘I noticed.’”

Kelly McFarlane Smith, head of Stonewall Publishing and editor of QVegas magazine, credits Forbuss with mentoring her as a community leader. Smith says, “When others were saying it was not right that a straight person now owned the gay magazine, Bob always stood with me and encouraged me.” Like Nichols, Smith notes, “Bob always, always compliments me on the great job I am doing.” She says, “He showed me what a strong voice I have, as well as insisting—in his polite manner and soft voice—that I needed to become politically active.” Forbuss says, “I encouraged Kelly because she was bright and had the vision. It never mattered that she was straight, what mattered was her commitment to gay rights.”

When the AIDS epidemic first hit Las Vegas in the 80s, Forbuss recalls, “A diagnosis of HIV/AIDS was a death sentence. Jerry [Cade] lost two

“LAS VEGAS ITSELF HAS PROVIDED ME WITH MY INSPIRATION,” FORBUSS SAID. “I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN OUR COMMUNITY AND IN ITS POTENTIAL.”

partners during this time. My half-brother, Barry, and 36 other persons living with HIV died in the early 90s from an outbreak of cryptosporidiosis in the Las Vegas water system.” Forbuss himself says, “I wasn’t very active at the beginning [of the crisis], but my best friend was Dr. Jerry Cade—a personality hard to resist!” But Cade remembers it differently, “Bob was incredibly involved from day one. Treating HIV in the 1980s was physically and politically challenging, as well as very emotionally and spiritually draining. I would have never survived the first decade without Bob.”

Forbuss says that before the AIDS epidemic hit, “Jerry had been hell-bent on becoming a congressman, then he treated the first AIDS patient in Las Vegas and it changed his life.” Cade recalls that in August 1985, he admitted his first AIDS patient, “an entertainer from the Strip, whom Bob and I had seen perform just six months earlier.” He says, “Shortly thereafter the partner of another entertainer was diagnosed with HIV. He was just 21 years old. It was devastating.” Some Las Vegas hospitals refused to admit AIDS patients, Cade said. “They had their staffs dress up in gowns, gloves and masks like they were an astronaut on the moon.” Cade fought for the establishment of an HIV inpatient unit at UMC and later helped create the UMC AIDS Outpatient Clinic, now known as the

Wellness Center, which cares for 2,000 persons with HIV/AIDS, two thirds of all the HIV/AIDS cases in care. Forbuss assisted Cade in creating the research non-profit Nevada AIDS Research and Education Society (www.nares2.org) and still serves as the non-profit’s director of development, a non-paid position. Forbuss says, “Not only was our community being decimated by HIV/AIDS, many of our LGBT brothers and sisters lacked the traditional familial support that comes in times of crisis.” Forbuss said, “Jerry pushed for us to be each other’s families.” Jerry Cade says, “If it hadn’t been for Bob, we might not have created the HIV program we have today.”

Forbuss says, “Education has always been and is still my passion. Education is our greatest hope for a better tomorrow.” Forbuss said that the greatest honor of his life was having Robert L. Forbuss Elementary School named for him. Forbuss said, “I have been involved with the school since before they opened and continue to support the school in any way that I can. I do whatever Shawn Paquette, the principal, will let me.” Political consultant and Forbuss’ close friend, Sig Rogich says, “I’ve had the privilege of working closely with Bob through the Public Education Foundation where he serves as Vice Chairman. He’s been a successful businessman, but I think he takes more pride in his school, than he does in any other achievement.”

Forbuss was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or ALS in July 2010. The non-contagious disease is often referred to as “Lou Gehrig’s disease” after the baseball great that died of the disease in the 1930s. Physicist Stephen Hawking is another well-known sufferer of the rare disease. According to the ALS Association, ALS causes the progressive degeneration of the motor nerves that control voluntary muscle movement, leading to paralysis and death. The cause is unknown and there is no known cure. Sig Rogich was with Forbuss at the Mayo clinic when he first learned that something was wrong, Rogich says, “Bob has never once complained, never.” Rogich said, “Bob has shown just how strong and brave he is through this terrible ordeal.” Forbuss says, “I have had a rough year and spent 28 days in intensive care in March.” He says, “I am home now and have my second lover, David Schilling, living with me and helping me—we should have never broken up. I truly love him.” Forbuss says, “I am not ready to depart yet, but clearly my timeline is short.”

“Las Vegas itself has provided me with my inspiration,” Forbuss said. “I have always believed in our community and in its potential.” Forbuss says, “One thing that is very important to me is the Smith Center—a state-of-the-art performing events center in downtown Las Vegas.” Forbuss and long-time mentor Richard Bryon serve on the Center’s Board of Directors. Forbuss says that when the Center opens in May 2012, “That alone will shift Las Vegas into the category of a world-class city.” ■

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JAWKEEN HOWARD

by Shavelle Chambers

Up-and-coming choreographer Jawkeen Howard says being a gay male in the entertainment industry is tough, but with hard work and perseverance, anything is possible.

At the age of 13, Napoleon and Tabitha D'umo (Nappytabs), who are most famous for their choreography on FOX's *So You Think You Can Dance*, booked Howard on his very first job as a dancer. He worked with a local Las Vegas artist Sophia Maria. The couple mentored Howard and guided him in the right direction towards a career as a choreographer. He says he learned a lot about professionalism and being a good performer at an early age.

"They weren't just great teachers, they're family to me and I have so much love for them," Howard said. "They've inspired me to be the person I am today." Howard notes that he will never forget the amount of work Nappytabs put into every project.

As a 26-year-old Las Vegas native who has been choreographing for 12-years, there had been struggles along the way, like any other road to one's dreams. For many years, Howard strived to think out of the box as well as to be different from what other choreographers were doing-- after all, choreography is about "your individual style." Howard describes his style as "sexy, melodic and energetic."

According to Howard, being gay in the entertainment industry limits one to certain dance jobs; it's all about image. Certain jobs want men to dance very masculine, Howard goes on to say, and being gay can be perceived as not being able to do it. He says he has learned to be himself and let God take control. "If it's meant to be it will be."

As a dancer and choreographer, it is very important to be versatile, Howard said. Some of the things he looks for in a performer are confidence, personality and swag.

The minute Howard hears a "dope" track, which he explains to be a song that inspires him to choreograph, is the minute he begins visualizing dance moves in his head.

"Choreography gives me life and I can't live without being artistic." He says the dancers he works with is what inspires him in creating

new moves. "If it weren't for them my vision wouldn't come to life," said Howard.

In spring of 2011, Howard worked with Josh Strickland from *Peepshow on The Strip* and *Holly's World*, a reality television series on E!, to choreograph his first music video titled "Report to the Floor." The duo had a two day limit to put something together due to the dancers having crazy schedules, and because Strickland was filming *Holly's World*, but the two were able to "manage, make it work and deliver." "Report to the Floor" has over 240 thousand views on YouTube.

Howard has recently relocated to Los Angeles to assist choreographer Luam Keflezgy on Britney Spears *Femme Fatale* Tour, which is scheduled to begin on June 16, 2011. Keflezgy has also worked with names such as Kelly Rowland and Rihanna.

"It was the best experience I've had in years," Howard said. "The process is amazing and what happens behind the scenes is breathtaking."

As a choreographer and dancer, one can expect to have a very busy and hectic schedule. Howard says with traveling, auditions and rehearsals, there isn't much time to relax and have fun. However, whenever he is in Las Vegas, he visits his family every chance he gets and spends time with his best friends who are always ready to help him unwind. Howard gives his family major credit for supporting him throughout his career.

Howard's grandmother played the piano and taught music in the late 60s, early 70s. She helped Howard choreograph his very first talent, which was dance, and helped take care of him often while his mother worked. Howard goes on to say that if it weren't for his grandmother, he wouldn't be doing what he loves... which is choreography.

For aspiring choreographers and dancers, Howard says to be yourself and not change who you are. "Follow your dream and don't let anything stop you." ■

To view a clip of Jawkeen Howard assisting in Britney Spears *Femme Fatale* Tour, visit Spears official website at www.britneyspears.com



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BACKDOOR 1415 E. Charleston Ave. 702-385-2018	2-4-1 Drinks 10am-12pm Retro Night	2-4-1 Drinks 10am - 12pm	2-4-1 Drinks 10am - 12pm	2-4-1 Drinks 10am-12pm Karaoke 12pm \$3 Well and Domestic	2-4-1 Drinks 10am-12pm Ladies Night	2-4-1 Drinks 10am-12pm Ladies Night	2-4-1 Drinks 10am-12pm Latin Night
BADLANDS SALOON 953 E. Sahara Ave. 702-792-9262	\$5 Beer Bust 9pm - Midnight	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Drinks 4pm - 7pm	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Drinks 4pm - 7pm	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Drinks 4pm - 7pm	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Drinks 4pm - 7pm	2-4-1 4pm-7pm \$5 Liquor Bust 9pm - 12pm	\$6 Beer Bust 9pm - Midnight
CHARLIE'S LAS VEGAS 5012 S. Arville St. 702-876-1844	\$1.75 Well&Dom. 2a-10a \$5 Beer Bust 4pm-7pm \$2 Long Islands 7p-12a	Dance Lessons 7p-9p \$1.75 Well 2am-10am 2-4-1 Well 10am- 6pm	Drag Queen bingo 9ish \$1.75 Well 2am-10am 2-4-1 Well 10am- 6pm	Underwear Night \$1.75 Well 2am-10am Karaoke 12pm Free Pool 9pm	1/2 Price 9p-12a Dance Lessons 7p-9p \$1.75 Well 2am-10am 2-4-1 Well 10am- 6pm	Dance Lessons 7p-9p \$1.75 Well & Domestic 2am-10am & 7pm-9pm \$10 Liquor Bust 9p-12a	\$1.75 Well & Domestic 2am-10am & 7pm-9pm \$5 Beer Bust 9pm - 12am
CREWS'N 1000 E. Sahara, Ste. 105 702-734-0951	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Well & Draft 2p-7p \$15 Brunch Buffet 4p	Sing along with pianist Piermarini 4p-7p Happy Hour 2p-7p	Happy Hour 2-7p Karaoke 8-11p Every other Tuesday	Happy Hour 2-7p 2 for 1 Well and Draft	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Well & Draft 2pm - 7pm Roll The Dice Price 7p- 9p	Happy Hour 2pm-7pm Kitty Litter Show 11pm & 1am	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Well & Draft 2pm - 7pm Richard Villa 10pm
ENTOURAGE VEGAS 953 E. Sahara Ave. 702-650-9191	Open 24 Hours Movie Star night	Open 24 Hours Boys Night 18-25 Free Entry	Open 24 Hours Dark Night All lights out	Open 24 Hours Wise Wednesdays 40+ Free entry	Mitch Vaughn Presents THRUST Thursdays Adult film stars 8p-10p	Open 24 hours	Open 24 Hours Packed House Busiest night
ESCAPE LOUNGE 4213 W. Sahara Ave. 702-364-1167	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Liquor Bust \$10 11p-1a Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8a-8p	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Liquor Bust \$10 10p-12a Happy Hour \$2 Well & Dom. Draft 8am - 8pm
FLEX 4371 W. Charleston Ave. 702-685-FLEX	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Liquor Bust \$10 11p-1a Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8a-8p	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Liquor Bust \$10 11p-1a Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8a-8pm
FREEZONE 610 E. Naples Dr. 702-794-2300	Karaoke Happy Hour 4pm - 8pm Free pool	Karaoke Happy Hour 4pm - 8pm Beer Bust 8pm - 1am	Ladies Night Happy Hour 4pm - 8pm Ladies Only Beer/Lick-Her-Bust 8pm - 1am	N-Toxicated Beer Bust 8pm - 1am Bingo 8pm - 10pm	Midweek Dance Party Beer Bust 9:30pm - 2am \$7 Liquor Bust	Queens of Las Vegas Show/Dance Party Beer Bust 8pm - 1am	Queens of Las Vegas Show/Dance Party Beer Bust 8pm - 1am
FUN HOG RANCH 495 E. Twain 702-791-7001	\$5 Beer Bust 6pm - 9pm	Happy Hour 3pm - 7pm \$1.50 Long Islands 9pm - 2am \$3 Smirnoff 8pm - Midnight	Happy Hour 3pm - 7pm \$5 Beer Bust & \$10 Liquor Bust 9pm - 2am	Happy Hour 3pm - 7pm \$1.50 Margaritas 9pm - 2am \$1 Off Call Liquor	Happy Hour 3pm - 7pm \$5 Beer Bust & \$10 Liquor Bust 9pm - 2am	Happy Hour 3pm - 7pm	\$5 Beer Bust 12pm - 4pm
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SNICK'S PLACE 3rd St. off Las Vegas Blvd. 702-938-9298	Open 24 Hours	Beer/Liquor Bust \$6, \$7, \$8, 7pm - 10pm \$6 Darts Happy Hour 2pm - 5pm & 2am to 4am	Happy Hour 2pm - 5pm & 2am to 4am	Happy Hour 2pm - 5pm & 2am to 4am	Happy Hour 2pm - 5pm & 2am to 4am	\$3 Smirnoff Drinks & \$3 Domestic Bottle Beer 12pm - 4pm / Happy Hour 2pm - 5pm & 2am to 4am	\$3 Smirnoff Drinks & \$3 Domestic Bottle Beer 12pm - 4pm
SPOTLIGHT LOUNGE 957 E. Sahara Ave. 702-696-0202	\$1.50 Bloody Marys 8am - 4pm \$5 Beer Bust 4pm - 7 pm	\$5 Beer Bust 12pm - 4pm 2-4-1 Drinks 6pm - 9pm	\$5 Beer Bust 12pm - 4pm 2-4-1 Drinks 8pm - 11pm	Hump Day \$1.50 Well Screws & Margaritas 8pm - 11pm \$1 Well, Domestic, Wine with Spotlight T-Shirt	\$5 Liquor Bust 10pm - 1am	\$5 Liquor Bust 1pm - 4pm \$5 Beer Bust 8pm - 11pm	\$5 Beer Bust 12 - 3pm Couples Night 6 - 9pm Jock Night Mid - 3am

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HRC THANKS THE 2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION FOR SUPPORTING LGBT RIGHTS IN NEVADA

By Anna Catlett

On behalf of Nevada's LGBT community The Human Rights Campaign, (HRC), would like to thank Nevada's legislators for allowing Nevada to continue leading the way with legislative initiatives that make our state a welcoming place for the LGBT community to live, work and vacation.

During the 2011 session, Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval signed three more bills to prohibit discrimination against transgender men and women. First, Governor Sandoval approved Senate Bill 331, which outlaws discrimination against transgender people in public accommodations, such as restaurants, hotels and stores. Also signed into law was Senate Bills 368 which outlaws discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression in housing. In addition, Assembly Bill 211 finally added gender identity and expression to Nevada's employment non-discrimination law. With the passage of these three bills, it is now Nevada policy and law that discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the areas of employment, housing and public accommodations are no longer tolerated. The law also allows individuals to file complaints with the Nevada Equal Rights Commission when they are discriminated against, as outlined above.



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And last, the recent Anti-Bullying Law, Senate Bill 276, also passed in Nevada's recent legislative session. Senate Bill 276 is a great example of how local LGBT groups, and their straight ally supporters, can come together to effect change on a statewide level.

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Assembly Bill 189, Passed 2005: Made it against state policy to discriminate in public accommodations based on perceived sexual orientation.

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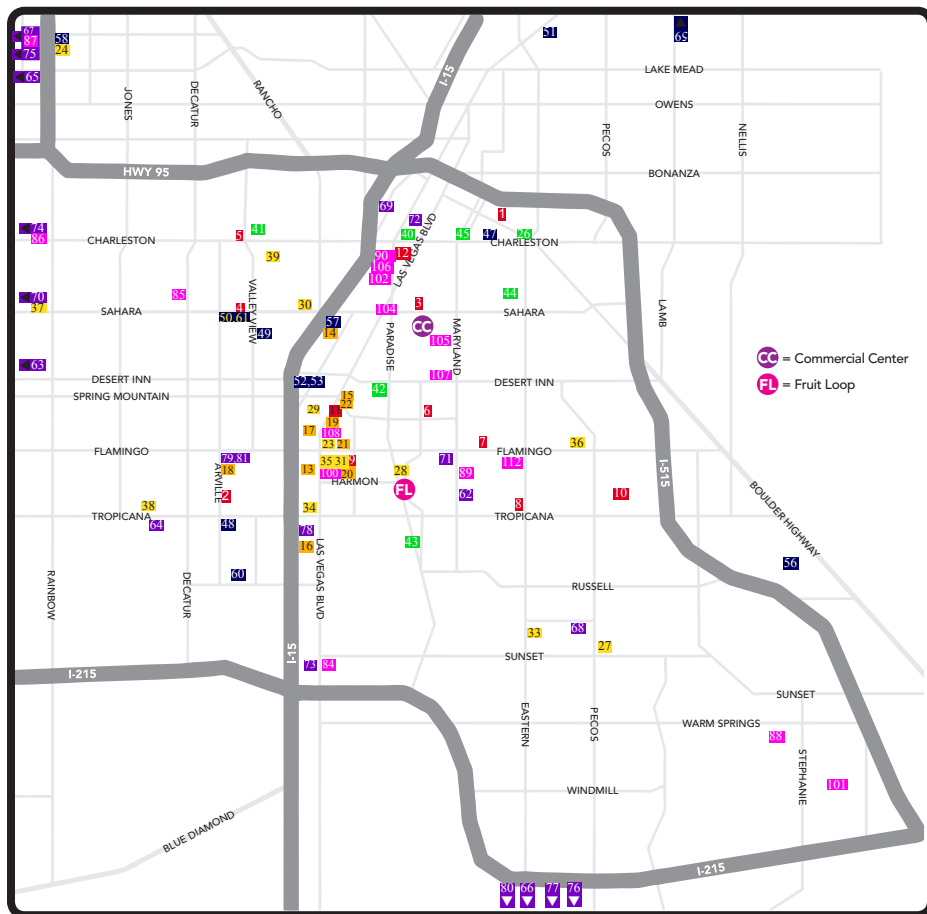
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CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22 – JANUARY 19

Combining business with pleasure has become second nature for you and shall be the prevailing pattern over the next two months. Expect to participate in several three martini late lunches. Isn't it amazing how much gets done at these soirees? You'll be especially persuasive on the 11th & 12th (even with competitors). Watch those shoulder muscles on the 23rd. You certainly don't need a repeat of what happened last winter. right, Cappy?



AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 – FEBRUARY 18

The ambitious side of your nature will become more pronounced and vocal over the next few weeks. Try not to hog every conversation. Though you are a walking encyclopedia, nobody likes a know it all, no matter how charming they might be. Listen to that "sharp as a tack" employee to learn some powerful and surprising advice. Book that Labor Day cruise package by the 10th to get the best deal. This gives you eight weeks to slim down a bit.



PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 – MARCH 19

Congratulations for paying off all those credit cards and for actually saving a chunk of change, Pisces. You've earned a treat. Maybe a couple of boxed DVD sets? Go ahead and have some fun. Keep that wallet and i-phone "stapled" to you on the 13th. Someone with "sticky fingers" may be on the hunt. News from back home on the 25th triggers mixed emotions. Count to 10 (at least) before speaking on the 31st. It will save some hurt feelings...



ARIES

MARCH 20 – APRIL 19

Offer an opinion only if it is specifically requested on the 9th. Clients could prove to be difficult and moody on the 14th. But, you're a whiz at getting people to smile and relax. Remember to keep all receipts from transactions made on the 20th. It could save much hassle up the road. Extend an "olive branch" to a former competitor (and soon to be ally) on the 28th. The 29th has gold coins written all over it. That means: go ahead and gamble, Aries. You'll win.



TAURUS

APRIL 20 – MAY 20

Good news from a distance brightens your day/mood on the 1st. Physical energies (including romantic yearnings) peak from the 7th-12th. Be sure to help out a dear "friend in need" on the 16th. Stay out of a "lover's quarrel" at all costs on the 21st. Take the 23rd as an alone/no calls/don't answer the door type of day. It'll totally rejuvenate you. A surprise job offer on the 27th will be very flattering, but likely has hidden flaws. Look into it carefully.



GEMINI

MAY 21 – JUNE 21

A friendship that has been blowing hot and cold may be about to end. Ask yourself if all the drama and highs & lows is worth it. July 4th gathering proves to be flat out fun in the sun. A "foreclosure" real estate deal could prove difficult to turn down. Have an expert look into it. Hard work continues to bring about what you seek. Keep that "nose to the grindstone" work ethic intact. Accept compliments for a job well done graciously on the 22nd. Smile and say thanks.



CANCER

JUNE 22 – JULY 22

There'll be a ton of energy to work with this month, what with it having two new moons (on the 1st & 30th). This event occurs once every 2 1/2 years and is called a blue moon aspect. July will begin and end with a bang (try to behave at that July 4th bash, okay?), though it might slump a bit around mid month. Financial aspects look quite good. Just don't go crazy at Best Buy, alright?



LEO

JULY 23 – AUGUST 22

An old expression says to "make hay while the sun shines. It shall be shining big time all month long. This is great for taking chances and playing against the odds (longshots pay the most dividends). Hang on to that vehicle for another six months. Then, you'll be able to make a sensational trade in deal. The 15th-17th looks amazing for a mini romantic getaway. Be sure to pack plenty of sun block with those hot new speedos. You devil you!



VIRGO

AUGUST 23 – SEPTEMBER 22

Being patient and meticulous has served you quite well for these many years. However, sometimes it's better to "roll the dice" and take a chance (or two). See Leo message. Too much planning can be just as bad as none at all. Hold off on dental work until after the 8th. When asked for an honest opinion on the 17th, be truthful but tactful. That bash you're invited to on the 23rd will be one for the record books. Be sure to dress sharp and above all, sexy.



LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 – OCTOBER 22

In many ways, this month shall resemble an obstacle course/roller coaster ride. Trust in that powerful intuition (it's stronger than you know). Shy away from negative people on the 17th & 18th. They'll only drain you (on so many levels). Incoming cash flow looks strong, but so does that outgoing flow. Watch that spending. How many pairs of designer sneakers does a person need? Foolish us! Forgot who we were talking to & dealing with. Sorry!



SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 – NOVEMBER 21

During this month, hard work trumps luck and knowledge surpasses intuition. Believe only what is seen and half of what is heard. Make an effort to get along with that difficult sibling. There's much more to the story than you know. Full Moon on the 15th brings out that amorous side (like it never far from the surface anyway) and sends you toward a super hot liason. The 28th looks terrific for delivering a persuasive sales pitch. Shine brightly!



SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22 – DECEMBER 21

Looks like a super money month is in the works, Sag. Income from three or more sources comes into play. One of which you'll have no idea that it's on the way. That gathering you throw on the 15th will be a major social "home run". Stay close to home on the 23rd if possible. Every lunatic driver will be out in force. A party you work late this month connects you with an influential new contact. This friendship will last a very long time.

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by Jennifer Morss, Executive Director AFAN

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The Black and White Party on August 27th will be the 25th year we've joined together and partied for a cause. Let's take a moment to reflect on the many ways this community continues to unite, through the mission of AFAN, to truly make a difference. This year also marks AFAN's 27th anniversary and the 30th anniversary for HIV disease. During these years, we have been witness to some great accomplishments and this year's party is time to celebrate and continue to make the difference in the lives of more than 3500 people affected by HIV in Southern Nevada.

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Together, we have accomplished lowering the administrative costs of AFAN from 19% in 2008 to just 9% in 2010. Thanks to your help; \$91 of every dollar supports directs programming. We've increased private fundraising and corporate sponsorship by 25% over the last year, and 710 more direct assistance checks were issued to clients this year boosting direct services by another \$255,300 over the previous year. Your support has helped AFAN by assisting 40% more clients this year, in some programs, than in previous years. In a time when our clients are seeing the worst of the economy, facing increasing local unemployment rates and home foreclosures, we have united to provide COBRA coverage, housing and utility assistance, and a new back-to-work program.

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This year we've joined together to embark into new territory to assist our clients in providing direct housing. This month we open the AFAN lofts providing affordable housing in ten beautiful lofts centrally located for our clients participating in the Ryan White Continuum of Care. And, in August, we will open Esparanza de Jardin and Casa (The Garden of Hope and the House of Hope). These social living properties will provide community homes to more than 20 clients needing permanent housing.

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The dedicated staff and Board of AFAN join our supporters and donors in standing proud in receiving the Key to the City and being voted one of the Top Places to Work in Las Vegas. Our deepest gratitude to all the wonderful QVegas readers who voted AFAN Best Nonprofit.

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The next few years will be challenging for all of us. More than ever, unity is the key. Distention must have no place in our common vision to ensure services for those affected by HIV. Currently, wait list occur in many states' AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAP). People are waiting on these lists for approval to receive life saving meds. Federal assistance for Persons Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWA) is in great jeopardy. The Affordable Health Care Act will be a significant challenge to our national HIV continuum of care. With your support this year, AFAN began implementing their preparations for the upcoming year. This past month, AFAN earned an international accreditation for best business practices. This accreditation has only been awarded to ONLY one other organization in the state of Nevada. We share this accomplishment as a community.

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The population we serve is aging. We now have Grandmas and Grandpas accessing services and bringing grandchildren into the office. Our clients are living longer due to advances in medical treatment and the stable support system available to assist with supportive services. To continue to meet the needs of new clients entering the system and continuing to assist enrolled clients, we need strength and unity in our community. Together, we will continue to fulfill the mission of AFAN; to provide support and advocacy for adults and children affected by HIV/AIDS.

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

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