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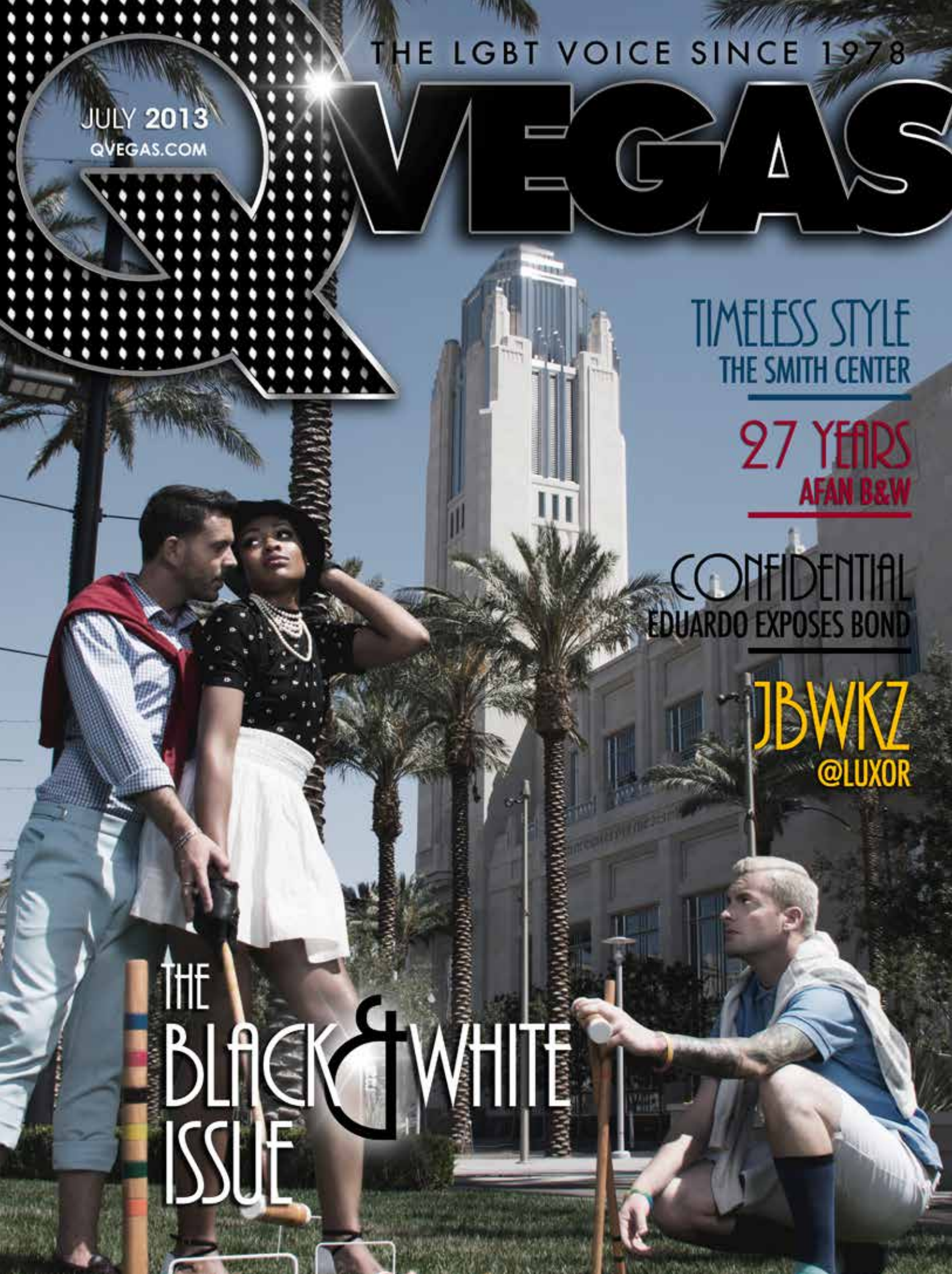
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ISSUE



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A black and white photograph of the musical duo Veronicas. They are standing on a stage, wearing matching black sleeveless dresses and black boots. They have their arms crossed in front of them and are singing with their mouths open. Behind them are two faint, semi-transparent duplicates of themselves, creating a sense of multiple voices. The background is a plain, light-colored stage.

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PHOTOGRAPH BY DANIEL F. ROYAL



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Fallen Guardian Angel's author, Edward Padilla shares the possible changes US AIDS drug assistance programs face with the passing of the Affordable Care Act



ON THE COVER

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A vibrant photograph of two men in a swimming pool. The man on the left is leaning forward, wearing red swim trunks, and playfully splashing water towards the man on the right. The man on the right is wearing sunglasses and smiling. In the background, other people are visible in the pool, and palm trees stand against a clear blue sky.

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a note from our Editor

"MOST THINGS IN THE WORLD
AREN'T BLACK, AREN'T WHITE, AREN'T
WRONG, AREN'T RIGHT, BUT MOST OF
EVERYTHING IS JUST DIFFERENT"

—C. JOYBELL C.

Progress, change, and something better can be hidden in the darkness of our impatience, in the darkness of our doubts and especially in the darkness of our fears, but there IS light at the end of the tunnel if we keep looking for it. Palm Mortuary Pre-planning Advisor Gary Vrooman shares his thoughts on the progress of attaining rights for the LGBT community. He's fought for over 48 years for these rights but strongly advises that "LGBT rights come with responsibilities." Read his article in Qinc. on page 54.

On the cover of this issue are Legends in Concert cast member Chuck Rite, QCrew member CJ Sturgis, and QVegas fan Chris Mason. We teamed them up with our QStyle crew at the Smith Center for the Performing Arts in timeless fashion.

July is our Black and White Issue and as we sought contributors for this issue I realized each had their own interpretation of what the issue would be all about. Some thought it would be about interracial relationships, some



thought it would be about contrasting old and new, and others thought it would be about AFAN's Black and White Party. We decided to include all of these interpretations, but more importantly to showcase a non-generic view of Gay Vegas. The LGBT flag has 6 colors but there are infinite wavelengths of the light we reflect. ■

Janise "Noah" Henderson

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Like us on Facebook (facebook.com/qvegasmagazine) and follow us on Twitter (@qvegas) to be the first to know about our new events and possibly participate in upcoming QVegas stories. By joining the #QCrew social network you can also get a chance to win some exciting giveaways throughout the year.

I WANT TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS

Do you have something on your mind? Do you have something to say about an article in QVegas or any topic of interest to our readers? Do you have an idea for a future story? I 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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AFAN BLACK AND WHITE: A NON-GENERIC HISTORY HOW A KIND REQUEST CREATED A BALL

by Miranda Boyd



In a city well accustomed to parties, it takes something truly special to stand out. One of the most outstanding of which is Aid for AIDS of Nevada's annual Black and White party. While most in the community are intimately familiar with the event, and newcomers have heard or will hear something enticing (see ad on page 36); the history of Black and White is a tale not everyone knows.

"The B & W Party concept started with a small group of gay men who were concerned about the wellbeing of the growing number of fellow gay men becoming sick, losing their jobs, having little or no insurance to cover medical costs and not being able

to pay their rent and car payments, let alone food and toiletries," says Nevada State Senator David Parks. Parks is a former AFAN board member and attended the first ever Black and White party 27 years ago. As he tells it, "The first B & W Party started as a birthday celebration where the honoree requested attendees bring items for AFAN's food bank instead of any birthday gifts."

That humble request spurred an outpouring of support from friends who, in an effort to provide the most support for their money, often opted to purchase generic supermarket products typically identified by their black and white labels. "At the second

party, reference was made and the invite included the use of a barcode generic label to identify the event. Reference was also made suggesting that participants wear black and white attire." That motif has become the life of the party. But the sentiment that generated it is what keeps the community engaged and the assistance thriving.

"At the first party, every participant personally knew at least one person who was either sick or had died of AIDS," Parks recalls. "Over the years as HIV affected more people, there became greater interest and support

Continued on page 11 >>>



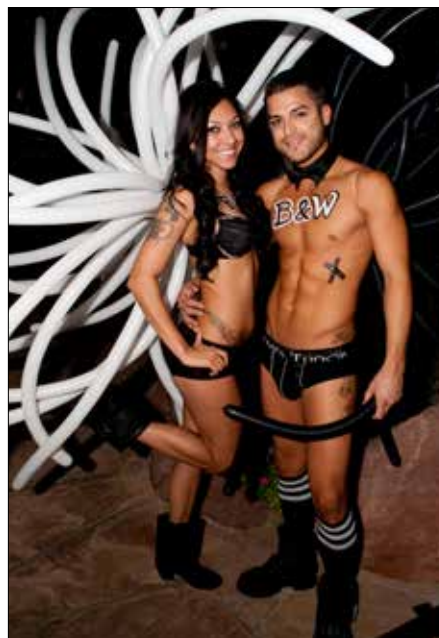
from the straight community. These were individuals who were personally impacted by knowing a family member, co-worker or neighbor who was HIV+ or had AIDS." As the novelty and frivolity of the party atmosphere entices more and more participants each year, it's that profound reasoning, the need for assistance and willingness to help that keeps driving AFAN and all the volunteers.

The party grew and grew. From a small get-together of about 25 people in an apartment it sprang into a poolside gathering at the apartment complex the following year, bloomed into a house party the next, and soon required commercial space. "It became so successful that other groups and businesses wanted to become a part of it." Now it stands tall as one of the most talked about and anticipated spectacles of the season. And the evolution that accompanies growth has brought brilliant changes to Black and White.

One of the largest alterations that's taken place is the fact that food donations are no longer accepted. As Parks explains, "The idea of soliciting donated non-perishable food and toiletry items also became so big that it presented a significant logistics challenge - collecting, transporting, sorting, inventorying and storing the contributions." The refocus from product collection to cash donation has helped make the event successful enough to regularly raise over \$100,000 for AFAN and all the people they serve. Although it does mean that the volunteers will no longer find surprising donations on Sunday morning

like the \$500 tin of Beluga caviar that showed up, and subsequently disappeared, one year. "No one seems to remember just what became of the tin of caviar. (There may have also been the disappearance of a box of Ritz Crackers.)"

The Black and White party has become as much a staple of the Las Vegas party scene as the iconic black and white labels are in memories of supermarkets and grandma's kitchen. From a simple beginning, with a heart-warming birth, it's become one of the must-attend events for anyone looking to have fun, experience something exciting, and support a worthy cause. Grab some Clorox, do a load of whites, shine your blackest shoes, and enjoy the thrill and awe of the 27th annual Black and White party. ■



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JUNE 29 STILL BLACK: a portrait of black transmen 1–3 p.m.

Documentary screening and Q&A with the film's director

Brought to life by the stories of six diverse transmen, director Kortney Ryan Ziegler has created a documentary weaving together themes of love, family, passing and sex. The viewer is welcomed with vivid discussions and each man brings a colorful and intricate richness as they describe their relationships with themselves as well as others in their lives.

JULY 13 TRANS 1–3 p.m.

Documentary screening and Q&A with the film's director

TRANS is a journey into the transgender world through the memorable stories of a remarkable cast of characters. It begins with the story of Lt. Commander Christopher McGinn. Upon her discharge from the armed forces, McGinn sets out upon a different mission — one from which she would never return. In *TRANS*, director Chris Arnold beautifully depicts Americans who were born with sex organs that do not match their internal perception of themselves.

JULY 27 (A)sexual 1–3 p.m.

Documentary screening and Q&A with a special guest from Asexual Awareness Week

Facing a sex obsessed culture, a mountain of stereotypes, and a lack of social or scientific research, asexuals — people who experience no sexual attraction — struggle to claim their identity. *(A)sexual* combines intimate interviews with fearless humor as five main characters grapple with the universal question: how do you deal with life as an outsider?

AUGUST 10 Gay Latino L.A. 1–3 p.m.

Documentary screening and Q&A with one of the film's main characters, Alex Aldana

This docu-drama is a voyage into the adulthood of three young men dealing with issues of family, machismo, religion, culture and life in Los Angeles. The cast — an immigrant hipster from Mexico, a Berkeley graduate and Salvadoran activist, and a Mexican American trying to escape gang life — intimately open up about the obstacles and triumphs in their lives.

AUGUST 24 Until Someone Gets Hurt 1–3 p.m.

Book signing and story telling by author Tyson Wrench with an interactive seminar focusing on identity theft

This is the true story of a multi-layered crime spree by a master criminal enterprise. Tyson Wrench, a former friend and now victim of the con men at hand, untangled the threads of this decade-long tale filled with jaw-dropping revelations. Dealing with issues of identity theft, robbery, murder and how the LGBTQ community can be a target for these kind of heinous crimes, *Until Someone Gets Hurt* is a breathtaking novel rivaling any Hollywood movie.

SEPTEMBER 7 ICONS: The Lesbian and Gay History of the World, Vol. 4 8–10 p.m.

A solo musical comedy followed by a discussion with the performer

Touted by *Out* magazine as "a brilliant show that will have audiences giving countless standing ovations," Jade Esteban Estrada's one-man musical is not to be missed. Portraying Plato, Virginia Woolf, Alan Turing, Dr. Evelyn Hooker, Freddy Mercury and Dustin Lance Black, this is a tour de force that is both relevant and enthralling.

SEPTEMBER 21 Andrea Gibson: Slam Poet 8–10 p.m.

65-minute spoken word performance opened by readings from local poets

Andrea Gibson is not gentle with her truths. It is this raw fearlessness that has led her to the forefront of the spoken word movement with powerful readings on war, class, gender, bullying, white privilege, sexuality, love and spirituality. *FLOWER BOY*, Gibson's fifth full-length album, is a welcome mat at the door of the heart's most compassionate room.

SEPTEMBER 28 Two Spirits, One Heart 1–3 p.m.

Interactive seminar, book signing and Q&A with the authors

In *Two Spirits, One Heart*, Marsha Aizumi shares her compelling story of parenting a young woman who came out as a lesbian, then transitioned to male. This inspiring memoir chronicles Marsha's personal journey to unconditional love, acceptance and support of her child who struggled to reconcile his gender identity. Told with honesty and warmth, parents and loved ones of LGBTQ individuals must experience this story.

OCTOBER 12 Chris Pureka: Singer/Songwriter 8–10 p.m.

Musical performance opened by L.A.-based Emy Reynolds

Chris Pureka, who has shared stages with the likes of The Lumineers and Ani DiFranco, is a genderqueer musician whose latest release — *Chimera II* — is an expression of transition. The name refers to a three-headed creature of Greek mythology. It's also a scientific term describing an organism derived from two genetically distinct types of cells. Pureka's life, built on independence and intimacy, translates stunningly to her music.

Note: some performances may include adult language and themes.

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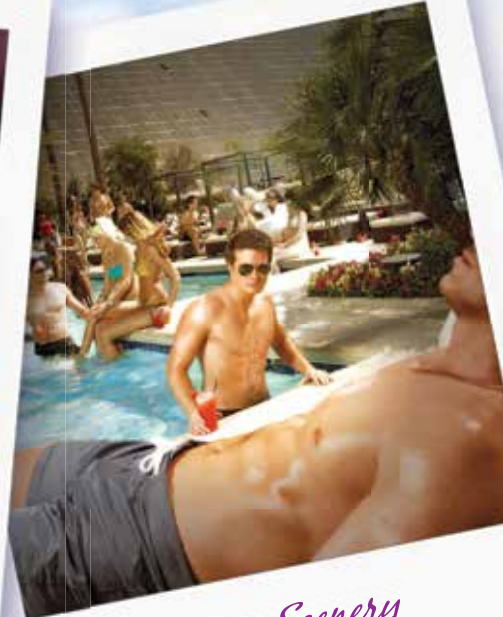
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2 STEPS FORWARD...

Here we highlight some of the accomplishments achieved over the past month. This is but a taste of all the progress made and all the victories won by LGBT and Ally individuals and organizations constantly striving for full equality and an end to discrimination.

Trans-Sensitive Rules at BPD

New rules at the Boston Police Department require transgender suspects to be addressed by their preferred name, receive pat-downs by officers of the gender of their choice and be housed separately in lockup. Officers are also instructed to respectfully ask transgender suspects which pronouns they prefer. "Our main goal is that everyone should be treated equally, and everyone should be treated with respect and dignity, whether you're at the front desk or on the other side of the front desk," said officer Javier Pagan, the Boston Police Department's liaison to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities.

Australia's New Gender Rules

New guidelines from the Australian government state, "Where sex and/or gender information is collected and recorded in a personal record, individuals should be given the option to select M (male), F (female) or X (Indeterminate/Intersex/Unspecified)." According to Australian Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus, "We recognise individuals may identify, and be recognised within the community, as a gender other than the gender they were assigned at birth or during infancy, or as an indeterminate gender. This should be recognised and reflected in their personal records held by departments and agencies."

Navy SEAL Comes out as Trans

Kristin Beck, who spent 20 years as a Navy SEAL, came out in a new memoir titled *Warrior Princess: A U.S. Navy SEAL's Journey to Coming out Transgender*. "I do not believe a soul has a gender, but my new path is making my soul complete and happy," Beck writes. "I hope my journey sheds some light on the human experience and most importantly helps heal the 'socio-religious dogma' of a purely binary gender." Despite the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell, openly transgender persons are still prohibited from serving in the military.

Caterpillar Ends Support for Boy Scouts

Caterpillar, the world's leading manufacturer of construction and mining equipment, became the latest company to end its support for the Boy Scouts of America due to BSA's policy to forbid gay and lesbian adult volunteers. "We have inclusive policies here at Caterpillar Inc., and the foundation abides by those," said a spokeswoman for Caterpillar. "We just don't feel that our two organizations align. However, if there's a change in the Boy Scouts' policies, we would certainly consider a change in the future grants — if there was a change that aligned with what our non-discrimination policies are."

1 STEP BACK

NYPD Accused of Assaulting Gay Man

Three men were walking past Brooklyn's 79th precinct when officers accused one of the men, 26 year old Josh Williams, of urinating on the building. The officers allegedly became violent and assaulted Williams, forcing him to the ground, spraying him with pepper spray, and restraining him before arresting Williams and his roommates, Tony Maenza and Ben Collins. Video of the event was recorded by one of the men and picked up by local news outlets. The officers are also accused of spouting homophobic slurs during the heated altercation. The incident is currently under investigation by NYPD Internal Affairs.

[By Miranda Boyd]

As we move ever forward, we must pause to acknowledge the backslides. Here we show the defeats suffered recently at the hands of adversaries and the misguided who continue to deny the rights, respect and beauty of us all.



ExxonMobil Votes Down Rights

The petroleum company voted overwhelmingly to reject a resolution that would have added protection for sexual orientation and gender identity to the company's Equal Employment Opportunity policy. 81% of shareholders voted against the resolution leaving only 19% in favor. Only one shareholder spoke in support. It was the 14th consecutive year that ExxonMobil voted against expanding its anti-discrimination policy. Prior to merging with Exxon in 1999, Mobil had nondiscrimination policies that included LGBT employees. Currently ExxonMobil is the only company ever to receive a negative score on the Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index.

Attack in Los Angeles

Victor Diego, described by family as gay and transgender, was attacked in Los Angeles while leaving work. Diego was dressed in women's clothes and was assaulted from behind by a group of men. Diego suffered two fractured ribs, a shattered cheekbone, a broken jaw, and damage to the temple. Actress Eva Longoria, owner of the restaurant where Diego was employed, tweeted her support for the 22 year old victim saying, "So awful what happened to Beso employee Victor Diego When will it stop?"

Anti-Gay Laws in Russia

The Duma, Russia's lower house of parliament, voted unanimously to pass a law imposing large fines on anyone providing information on homosexuality to persons under the age of 18. The measure will become law once passed by the upper house and signed in by President Vladimir Putin, both assumed to be formalities. Another law criminalizes "offending religious feelings of the faithful." Following the vote, violence erupted in Moscow as gay rights protestors clashed with religious demonstrators. Despite homosexuality being decriminalized in Russia in 1993, anti-gay beliefs are still rampant.

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SUNDAYS

- Showtunes High Tea @ FLEX Cocktail Lounge
- The Affair @ The Boulevard Theater
- Pride Pajama Brunch Bingo (bi-monthly)
- Charlie's Amazing Drag Show @ Charlie's LV
- "She's Dope" Ladies Night (1st Sun.) @ FreeZone
- Burgers & Boys @ Blue Moon Resort
- REVO Sundays @ Revolution Lounge

MONDAYS

- Speak Easy Monday with Jessica Rabbit @ Piranha
- Karaoke Night @ FreeZone
- Sin Monday's @ The Garage LV
- Liquor Bust @ Spotlight Lounge

TUESDAYS

- Karaoke Night @ FreeZone
- QSocial Ladies Event (Every 2nd Tues.)
- Drag Queen Bingo @ Charlie's LV

WEDNESDAYS

- QBA Luncheon (Every 1st Wed.) qvegasba.com
- Confidential @ Bond
- Pride Bingo @ Circus Circus (Every 1st Wed.)
- Skin/Underware Night @ Charlie's LV
- Gay Men's Mpowerment Groups @ The Center
- Ntoxxicated- Diva Toxxx Drag Show @ FreeZone

THURSDAYS

- Dark & Double Thursdays @ Entourage Men's Spa
- POP Thursdays @ Share Nightclub
- Nothing But Country Thursdays @ Charlie's LV
- Prism @ The Artifice (Every 2nd Thurs.)
- Boys Night @ FreeZone
- Le'd Back Thursdays @ Drink & Drag
- Big Gay Thursdays @ Krave Massive

FRIDAYS

- Stripper Circus @ Share Nightclub
- 3D Fridays @ Piranha
- Drag Madness @ FreeZone
- flamBoyance @ FLEX Cocktail Lounge

SATURDAYS

- SNAPI Saturdays @ Charlie's LV
- Porn Stars in Vegas @ Share Nightclub
- Goddess Saturdays with India Farrah @ Piranha
- What A Drag @ FLEX Cocktail Lounge
- Drag Madness @ FreeZone
- What a DRAG @ Flex
- CumUnion @ Hawk's Gym



MONDAY, JULY 1 CHINO & LAS SIRENAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS: THE HUNK GUYS

Piranha Nightclub hosts THE HUNK GUYS, a two day affair with sexy bikini contests, milk contests, hot music, hot hunky guys and much more. This is a 21+ event, and doors open at 10 PM with no cover all night—so don't miss out. For more information go to piranhavegas.com.



You can find more gay weekly events by logging onto yellow.qvegas.com and click the "Events" tab.



WEDNESDAY, JULY 3 LAS VEGAS PRIDE FAMILY BINGO

Kids dust off your feather boas! Priscilla is in town and SNAPI is throwing a party at Circus Circus hotel in the Grand Ballroom. Beginning at 6 PM, Family Bingo is open to all ages for fun games of bingo, raffles drawings, great food and more. There will be special performances by Bingo hosts Norma, Diana, Selena, Diva and Rockell. Be sure to come early for SNAPI hour with \$4 Absolute and Malibu mixed drinks. To reserve a table send an email to savemeatable@lasvegaspride.org

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3 QBA DITCH WORK POOLSIDE LUNCHEON

Same great networking all afternoon long, poolside at Springhill Suites, located at 2989 Paradise Road. Come enjoy a delightful selection of appetizers, passed champagne and beer as we mix and mingle on the 24th floor poolside with cityscape views of the Las Vegas Strip. Dress for comfort. \$15 for members & their guests, and \$20 for non-members. For more information go to marriott.com/laspr.

THURSDAY, JULY 4 BETTY'S OUTRAGEOUS ADVENTURES' ANNUAL 4TH OF JULY POOL PARTY BENEFIT

Come out and celebrate Independence Day by the pool with The Betty's at Liz's gorgeous house just off Hollywood Blvd on Sunrise Mountain. Help the ladies raise money to revamp their website by enjoying a wonderful day by the pool with a live DJ, door prizes, and delicious BBQ. The fun starts at 2 PM, so to save a spot just send an email to cindi@bettysout.com. Space is limited to the first 50 people. This is a kid and pet free event.

SATURDAY, JULY 6 CLUB CANDY KISSES OPENING NIGHT

The longest running hip-hop all-girls party is back. Taking over each and every Saturday at the well known Eagles bar located at 3430 E Tropicana, lesbian promoter Sin City Stud brings you the brand new Club Candy Kisses. With special performances by local exotic dancers, the hottest hip-hop music by DJ Fresh-E, and of course keeping you entertained by the sexiest go-go dancers in gay Vegas. This is a 21+ event, and dress code is strictly enforced. Doors open at 1 AM, with a \$5 entry fee for locals, and \$7 for out of state attendees.

SUNDAY, JULY 7 "SHE'S DOPE" AT FREEZONE NIGHTCLUB

Join the ladies of gay Vegas for an all female monthly showcase. "She's Dope" features open mic artists and special performances by local lady talent. This is a free event for all. Doors open at 10 PM. To book a time slot to showcase your art, send an email to shesdope@live.com.

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Dal Toro is an exciting multi-level restaurant, car gallery and event center located in the Palazzo Hotel and Casino.

Dal Toro Ristorante and Dal Toro Exotic Car Gallery, designed by famed Italian architect, Paolo Cortese, features stunning architectural elements. The luxurious décor is a contemporary spin on characteristic Italian aesthetics that includes Italian sculptures, custom-designed furniture, a glass-enclosed wine cellar with private dining and modern abstract paintings. Guests have the option to dine inside the 100-seat restaurant or al fresco on the most beautiful patio on the Las Vegas Strip surrounded by white rose bushes, manicured gardens and 100 feet of marbled mosaic Palladian fountains.

The exotic car gallery, located on both upper and lower levels of the venue, invites guests to preview a collection of exotic, luxury and classic cars for sale. The state-of-the-art car gallery also doubles as a special event space housing 14 suspended plasma flat screen TVs, a 10' built-in projection screen, a wireless PowerPoint system and a Bose sound system with full club level music capabilities.

Dal Toro's menu offers authentic Italian cuisine from Italy's renowned Chef Fiorenzo Trunzo. Included on the menu are specialty dishes as well as traditional Italian favorites. Chef Fio's use of natural, artisanal ingredients make dining at Dal Toro Ristorante a truly memorable experience.

TUESDAY, JULY 9 THE LADIES OF Q SOCIAL

This month's Ladies Q Social will be held at the Downtown Cocktail Room, an intimate cocktail room and speakeasy in the heart of Downtown Las Vegas. Located at 111 Las Vegas Blvd, this bohemian-chic cocktail lounge offers amazing hand-crafted cocktails with a seasonal menu. The social begins at 7 PM. To RSVP go to facebook.com/theladiesofqsocial

SATURDAY, JULY 13 SIN CITY SISTERS ANNUAL ASCOT GARDEN PARTY

Join the Sin City Sisters at the Nevada State Museum for their 8th annual Ascot Garden Party. For \$22.08 the night will include a hosted wine bar, hors d'oeuvres, parade of hats contest, and a fun filled ascot community derby race. The night starts at 7 PM, and all proceeds benefit SADAP.

SATURDAY, JULY 20 BOOK SIGNING AT GET BOOKED

Join International Best Selling Author, Sherrie Lueder and her literary team at 5 PM for a book signing at Get Booked located in the Fruit Loop. Until Someone Gets Hurt is based on a true story and is available for purchase. For more information call 702-737-7780.

SUNDAY, JULY 21 BURLESQUE CLASSES STUDENT SHOWCASE

Come and check out Las Vegas' sexiest and newest burlesque entertainers. Performing for the first time after completing intensive Las Vegas Burlesque Classes. These students will all perform original pieces. Hosted by Cha Cha Velour at The Onyx Theatre, tickets are \$15, which can be purchased at the door or from onyxtheatre.com. Showtime is at 6 PM.

FRIDAY, JULY 26 NIGHT SCHOOL 4 GAYS

Night School 4 Girls is teaming up with Frank Marino for a special experience, Night School 4 Gays at Hard Rock Cafe on the strip. For the first time ever, the fun and frisky class invites male participants to join in for a good cause. Portions of proceeds



from the class will be donated to the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada. Hosted by Marino, the special 70-minute class teaches sexy moves, the art of sensuality, pole dancing tricks and a burlesque routine. Tickets are available at nightschool4girls.com, and for a special discounted price, use the promo code: NS4Gays. This is a 21+ event, so for more information, call 702-889-2705.

SATURDAY, JULY 27 SNAPI SATURDAYS

Join Las Vegas Pride every 4th Saturday for SNAP! Saturdays at Charlie's LV. SNAP!s Pride Royalty and other fantastic performers will entertain you with fabulous performances and fantastic raffle prizes throughout the evening. There will be tasty Jell-O shots served by current and former PRIDE Royalty and board members. So dress up in your cowboy boots and head on down to Charlie's Las Vegas.



Thinking Out Loud: Coming Out, Again

How an oddball disorder sent me back to the closet

By Abby Dees

Last week I discovered that there's a name for a problem I've had since I was 11. I've learned that other people have the same problem, and quite a few have it way worse than I do. I found out that my "quirk" – one that close friends have lovingly tolerated, others have derided – isn't just my own, solitary, rather embarrassing character flaw, but something very real.

I have Misophonia – literally, "hatred of sound," but that's kind of misleading. I couldn't live without my Beatles bootleg collection or my vintage Martin guitar, so I must love sound too. Here is misophonia in a nutshell: certain normal sounds that people make, invariably quite soft sounds, register in my brain like a hundred nails on a chalkboard. Open-mouth gum-chewing, for example, or aimless whistling can torment me, as well as some visual stimuli. My thinking short-circuits if someone habitually shakes a foot anywhere in my field of vision. But because I'm otherwise a rational, relatively normal person, I have a cache of coping skills: I never leave the house without an iPod (a portable refuge), I have a list of handy reasons I may need to step away quickly, and sometimes I just have to suck it up, which is incredibly difficult. On a plane, I'll barely notice the engine roar, but I'll be completely unhinged by the guy ten rows back who doesn't know that Kleenex can bring his chronic sniffing to a halt. In those moments, strangers would have no way of knowing that I'm desperately eyeing the escape slide, but my partner now reads my body language like Sherlock Holmes and scans the crowd curiously to find the ordinary thing that has hijacked my brain.

I know, it sounds ridiculous. Or you might be thinking, "But everybody hates it when people pop their gum. It's just gross." Yes, it's gross (and bad manners), but is it profoundly upsetting to everybody? Even before

I had a name for it, I'd try to explain it to friends. If they didn't casually dismiss it, they'd breezily offer, "I'm like that too! It's so annoying when people don't blow their noses." Again, let me explain. If there isn't a good chance that you'll either start crying or suddenly need to "use the restroom" because someone won't stop smacking lunch, you don't have misophonia. Then there's the worst response of all: I should just get over it, as if my maddening neurosis were a choice. Fortunately, to those I'm closest to, it exists as Abby's amusing, at times exasperating, little eccentricity. They accept me, thank heavens. I don't talk about it with anyone else; I just deal as best I can. After all, it's not cancer.

However, now that I know I'm not alone in this, I'm coming out, albeit with great trepidation that in so doing, I'll lose all credibility as a serious person. I might seem...crazy. Or worse, silly. I'm coming out because as I learn about other people's struggle with misophonia, I see nothing silly about it. In fact, the condition itself is rarely the biggest problem; lack of understanding by loved ones is. To other people, this sensitivity makes no sense. They downplay it,

reject its existence, or resent being inconvenienced or challenged by it.

As a lesbian, this all seems oddly familiar. I'm not suggesting that having a mental health issue is equivalent to being LGBT, but we humans do have a habit of condemning or dismissing things we don't understand. The result is that too many of us are painfully isolated because of it. A reporter friend recently told me that the more he meets people in his work, the more he understands that what is insignificant to one person means everything to another. We're all just one hormone surge, one neuron ping away from experiencing the world totally different from the person next to us. It reminds him to summon compassion before judgment, to see commonality in our very difference.

For me, I'm taking my new diagnosis as a humble reminder of what it's like to feel so different. It's been a long time since I had coming-out jitters. It's probably good for me. ■

Abby is a civil rights attorney-turned-author who has been in the LGBT rights trenches for 25+ years. She can be reached through her website: queerquestionsstraighttalk.com



dining room features immaculate white tablecloths, semi-circular banquettes and geometric chairbacks covered in chocolate brown leather, and most prominently, a central lighting rig from which are suspended three matching chandeliers.

Although there were several large parties dining that evening, the hostess gave me a booth to myself, which felt very grand. The servers, in their classic black and whites, seemed very proud of their restaurant, and were full of helpful suggestions. Tonight, however, I wanted to indulge in all the classics - the dishes a high roller might've ordered back in the day.

I started with **Sal's Shrimp Cocktail**—4 enormous chilled shrimp, simply arranged on a plate, accompanied by a kicky red sauce. This was followed by the **Popular Wedge Salad**—iceberg lettuce with chopped egg, smokehouse bacon, and a tangy Maytag bleu cheese dressing; perfect with a touch of fresh ground pepper. Next came **Vinnie's Lobster Bisque**—Maine lobster stock with cream and brandy flambé. Garnished with a touch of crème fraîche, each spoonful was smooth and delicious, with the brandy providing a subtle finish. My entree of choice was the **Spicy Flame Charred Spilotro Steak**—a flavorful skirt steak studded with garlic cloves and rubbed with red chili flakes. Named after Anthony "The Ant" Spilotro, one of Goodman's underworld clients, this steak was juicy, perfectly char-broiled, and a garlic lover's dream, with the chili flakes adding a powerful kick! Finally, what could top a classic dinner such as this? A creamy slice of New York Style Cheesecake. This phenomenal meal truly took me back in time.

Two nights later, I found myself back downtown, eager to try a true Las Vegas dining institution; Hugo's Cellar at the Four Queens Casino. Opened nearly 37 years ago, Hugo's takes pride in its old-school status. This is not a sleek, modern, celebrity chef-run restaurant with overly clever food. This is the real deal! Literally in a cellar, the walls are made of red brick, the ceilings are low, there are wood accents, and you'll see roses everywhere in this intimate, romantic space. The rose seems to be their trademark: the butter for your bread is piped into the shape of a rose, there are rose-shaped wall sconces, roses decorate the menus, and each woman

EATING OUT

[by Michael Barbieri]
www.myvegasobsession.com

LAS VEGAS CLASSICS: OSCAR'S & HUGO'S CELLAR

Old Vegas, Downtown, Glitter Gulch. Phrases like these conjure up a very different Vegas - mobsters in sharp black suits gambling the night away with a showgirl on their arm, Sinatra and his Rat Pack, coins clanking in slot machine hoppers, and smoky casinos where oil-rich cowboys shoot craps until dawn. This was Las Vegas before tourists and Spring Breakers took over.



myvegasobsession.com

LET MY EXPERIENCE BE YOUR GUIDE!!!

Las Vegas. Vegas, Baby! Sin City. Glitter Gulch. My friend Maureen and I like to call it "Veg-AH!" Call it what you will, Las Vegas is my escape. Some people run away to the beach, some to the woods, others to the mountains. I run away to Las Vegas!

With the revitalization of the Downtown area, more and more people are discovering venerable elements of Old Vegas not found on the Strip. Indeed, visitors can find classic casinos, classic entertainment, and yes, even classic restaurants.

Opened in 2011, Oscar's Beef Booze & Broads quickly became a staple of the Downtown culinary scene. Owned by Oscar Goodman, former mayor of Las Vegas and former defense attorney for some of Las Vegas' most notorious mob figures, this excellent eatery harkens back to the days when Downtown Vegas was THE place to be, and serves up a bit of Vegas history along with its fine food.

Located in the tinted glass dome in front of the Plaza Hotel, Oscar's has a panoramic view of Fremont Street with its vintage neon signs and Viva Vision light canopy. Other than a Wall of Fame showing Goodman with assorted celebrities and political figures, and some larger than life portraits of the man himself, the decor is sparse, but delightfully retro-'70's. The tiered



Oscar's Beef Booze & Broads

who dines at Hugo's is given a long-stemmed red rose.

Richard, the host and General Manager, welcomed me warmly and showed me to my table, where I started with a cocktail. I chose a Raspberry Lemon Drop, which was smooth, yet slightly tart. It was also a very generous pour! The excess - about another drink and a half's worth, came in a mini carafe in a small ice bucket. This is their standard pour!

I asked Eric, my server, if he felt any of the dishes were representative of the restaurant, and after several recommendations, I made my choices.

First, the **Escargot en Croute**—six large snails sauteed in shallots, garlic, herbs, and burgundy wine, each topped with lighter-than-air puff pastry. The dish arrived bubbling hot, but once it cooled, I sampled the best escargot I've ever had, plump and tender, with the pastry adding a flaky, buttery texture, like French comfort food. Next was Hugo's Table-side Salad - a cart with a bowl of crisp Romaine lettuce and a selection of dressings and toppings was wheeled to my table, where, after I chose the beautifully balanced orange-honey-walnut vinaigrette and a variety of toppings, my salad was expertly mixed just for me. Then came a pleasant surprise: a tiny wafer cone filled with an excellent Lemon Sor-

bet, as a palate cleanser. A classic touch! For the entree, my server recommended the **Queen's Lobster**—lobster tail meat cut into medallions and lightly dredged in flour, added to a white wine and cream reduction with garlic, shallots, mushrooms, sun dried tomatoes and a dusting of red pepper flakes. This was a true "Wow" moment! The sweet, tender lobster was enveloped by the rich, decadent sauce. The sun dried tomatoes and mushrooms gave the dish a real depth of flavor, with an earthy, almost smoky quality, and the red pepper added satisfying heat. Finally, before I'd had a chance to order dessert, I was brought a "dessert starter" of sorts—chocolate-dipped strawberries, apricots and baby figs, with whipped cream. This was wonderful, of course, but I had something else in mind... **Cherries Jubilee**—plump, pitted cherries flambéed table-side with brandy, and then spooned over vanilla ice cream—a classic dessert.

On my way out, I stopped to thank the host once more, and he told me to stop by whenever I'm in town, because, "...you're family now!" That's what I think makes Hugo's extraordinary - wonderful details that combine to create more than just a meal; it was a personal experience. It was fine dining with heart!

Oscar's? Hugo's? Oh, yeah! The Rat Pack would've approved! ■

Oscar's Beef, Booze & Broads

1 Main Street
Las Vegas, NV 89101
(702) 386-2110
Mon-Sun 5 PM - 11 PM

Hugo's Cellar

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BOTTOMS UP

@ BOND IN THE COSMOPOLITAN LAS VEGAS

BY RUSS WHITE

BOND is the new Wednesday night hot spot on The Strip. Home of CONFIDENTIAL, suspended daybeds hovering below elevated go-go platforms invite you into this bar on the north end of The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas. Face the East and you overlook the Strip framed by the bar's large picture windows. Face the West and daylight gives way to the glow of the animated LED walls. No matter your vantage point, you are positioned to soak in the excitement of Las Vegas as you prepare yourself to indulge in a selection of playful cocktails.

"Bond and The Cosmopolitan are the perfect place for this event. It's a comfortable luxury and is visually amazing—a night to dress up, have a cocktail with friends and look fabulous!" says Eduardo Cordova.

Vegas locals and frequent visitors are familiar with Cordova's high impact gay events, integrating mainstream clubs and pools with the gay community. "I have always wanted to do a mid-week Wednesday night. I have a lot of friends that want to socialize, have a cocktail, and catch up with friends," said Cordova.

Can't get enough of BOND on Wednesdays? The Drop Top is available throughout the week and bursts with refreshing, yet tart flavors. Four simple ingredients meld together to create a refreshing drink.

A new twist on the old lemon drop, the Drop Top looks and tastes like a lemon meringue pie. The drink menu lists Lemoncello as one of the main ingredients, but supply shortages necessitate a Peachcello substitution. The original liqueur is not missed as the white peach flavors soften



the Belvedere Citrus, and the fresh squeezed lemon juice adds enough tartness to what could easily have become too sweet.

To sip or to suck. Topped with a house-made piña colada flavored foam, the presentation of Drop Top resembles an old fashioned meringue pie. The topping looks like a whipped

cream, and in any other bar it would be an easy substitute. But the rum-laced foam isn't all decoration. It's light and airy and doesn't weigh down the drink. Plunge your straw down past the fluffy whitecap for a full blown mouth-puckering taste of the concoction. Then set the straw aside and enjoy the softer flavors as the layers meld together. ■

THE COSMOPOLITAN LAS VEGAS MIXOLOGIST



THE DROP TOP

Chris Hopkins shared four special cocktails with QVegas. These concoctions are available only on Wednesdays at CONFIDENTIAL.

ROKA LATTE

Think of a caramel latte, creamy, but with a kick of Hennessy Black and Roka Caramel and a coffee and caramel foam.

WHAT DID YUZU TODAY?

Yuzu, kaffir lime and fresh lemongrass syrup add to the spiciness and complexity of Belvedere Grapefruit and Roka Apple.

SPICED APPLE SPRITZ

This light variation of a French 75 cocktail with Belvedere Lemon Tea, Roka Apple, and house-made ginger.

ROKA'N ROLL

Belvedere Citrus and Roka Apple combine with the spiciness of cardamom and ginger to create a long, refreshing cocktail that is reminiscent of a Moscow Mule.

COCKTAIL CHATTER

RIMMING

BY ED SIKOV

"I can't talk to you now. I'm rimming." Dan was obviously aghast. There was a momentary pause on the line, after which he said only, "Who?"

"Get your mind out of the gutter!" I cried in triumph. "It's not that kind of rimming."

"What other kind is there?" he asked warily.

"I'm creating decorative and tasty rims on cocktail glasses. You know, like salt on a margarita?"

"Very funny," he muttered, clearly indicating that he didn't find my little joke even half as amusing as I did. "I'll be home in an hour." Then he hung up.

The truth of the matter is that I was initially inspired by a very, uh, captivating porn video I'd watched a few days earlier. To be a bit confessional here, the actual practice of rimming has never appealed to me. Before. Then I saw these two most attractive young men appear to be enjoying themselves fully, executing their task with vigor. I couldn't tear my eyes away. And that's saying something, because having been a video porn reviewer earlier in my checkered career, I have seen so much bad porn that it usually does absolutely nothing for me now. (I wrote for the late, lamented *Inches* magazine under the by-line "Joe McKenna," which was Doris Day's character's name in *The Man Who Knew Too Much*; I added the e to "Jo" to make it conform to gender norms.)

It was through this filth that I got to musing on the word "rimming," and in a flash of pure inspiration, I realized I had the subject of my next column. Why stop at salt for margaritas? There are many things you can use to beautify and spice up the edge of a cocktail glass. So I began experimenting.

The liquor cabinet was running low,

so I was forced to use my imagination; I employed only a bunch of clean glasses, a saucer full of water and several small plates. A quick tour of my spice cabinet produced an array of spices and seasonings that I paired with imaginary cocktails. I suppose a wealthier cocktails columnist would have made real cocktails to try out the various rims I created, but stocking the liquor cabinet and refrigerator for all the following drinks would have meant going without food for a few days. I'm certain these combinations will work. I wouldn't print them if I had any doubts.

MULTICOLORED PEPPER RIM

Hand-grind a saucer full of multicolored peppercorns. Take a tall tumbler, dip it in the water, and then in the ground pepper. Voila! Here you have the perfect topper for a Bloody Mary. Variation: shake some hot pepper flakes onto the peppercorns for a spicier crust, but don't overdo it.

CRACKED FENNEL RIM

Either buy cracked fennel from Penzey's spices (www.penzeys.com) or crush some whole fennel seeds in a mortar and pestle and dip your wetted glass into a saucerful of fennel. This would make a great Bloody Mary crust, too, as well as an interesting rim for plain frozen Absolut or the caraway flavored liquor, Aquavit. Cumin seeds would work just as well.

SUGAR RIM

Pour some granulated sugar or superfine sugar onto a plate, and dip a tumbler in to form a sugar crust for a screwdriver or a Madras or a Watermelon or even a Manhattan, as long as you decrease the amount of sweet vermouth in the Manhattan to keep the drink from being cloying.

Ed Sikov is the author of the e-book, *The Boys' and Girls' Little Book of Alcohol*, a novel with recipes based on his Cocktail Chatter column. ■

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401 S Maryland Pkwy

Las Vegas, NV 89101

(702) 733 9800

Monday and Thursday

10:30am - 6pm

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2475 W. Cheyenne Ave #120

Las Vegas, NV 89030

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Tuesday and Wednesday

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Style

“The loneliest moment in someone’s life is when they are watching their whole world fall apart, and all they can do is stare blankly.”

— F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby

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Hair: Danny Escobedo
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Assistant: Aisle Medina
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Boman Pavilion >>>

You've seen the Carillon Tower. You've ventured across the marble floors into Reynolds Hall for productions like "Wicked," concerts with Idina Minzel and Jewel or to see the Nevada Ballet Theater or Las Vegas Philharmonic. But chances are you haven't ventured over to Boman Pavilion – an entirely distinct and separate wing at The Smith Center for the Performing Arts that houses two venues and education classrooms. Dressed in rich emeralds and timeless Art Deco themes, Boman Pavilion is home to Cabaret Jazz where the likes of Barbara Cook, Molly Ringwald, Sam Harris, Jim Caruso, Frank Wildhorn and Betty Buckley have all called home for a night or two here in Las Vegas. A pseudo 'in-the-know' club with an urban jazz vibe and sophisticated cabaret room ambiance, Cabaret Jazz is suited for musical performances best heard and enjoyed in an intimate venue. Catch Clint Holmes there on the first of every month and upcoming performances from Billy Stritch singing The Mel Torme Songbook on Aug. 23 and 24.

Chris: top & shorts VINTAGE sweater
EXPRESS socks STYLIST-OWN shoes
BARRINGTON CLASSICS by STITCHED

Chuck: sweater & pants VINTAGE top
H&M shoes SPERRYS

CJ: top & skirt AVANSEH PROGRESSIVE
CLOTHING hat & jewelry VINTAGE shoes
PATTY'S CLOSET



Chris: suit **ERMENEGILDO ZEGNA**
shirt **JACK LIPSON** bowtie **MICHAEL**
LAMONT shoes **ALLEN EDMONDS**

Chuck: suit **ERMENEGILDO**
ZEGNA shirt **JACK LIPSON** bowtie
GLADSON shoes **ALLEN EDMONDS**



Chuck: suit **ERMEGILDO ZEGNA**
shirt **JACK LIPSON** bowtie **MICHAEL**
LAMONT shoes **ALLEN EDMONDS**
CJ: dress **VINTAGE** hat **MILLINERY**



Chris: suit **ERMENEGILDO ZEGNA**
shirt **JACK LIPSON** bowtie **MICHAEL**
LAMONT shoes **ALLEN EDMONDS**

Chris: suit JOHN VARVATOS shirt JACK LIPSON shoes ALLEN EDMONDS

Chuck: suit MARIO FLORENCE shirt JACK LIPSON shoes ALLEN EDMONDS

CJ: dress VINTAGE handbag SAKS FIFTH AVENUE hat VINTAGE accessories & shoes PATTY'S CLOSET





CJ: dress & fur
AVANSEH PROGRESSIVE
accessories PATTY'S
CLOSET



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**Make a
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The ART OF SEDUCTIVE STRIP

[by Miranda Boyd]

The Burlesque Hall of Fame Weekend is the largest, longest-running burlesque event in the world! Four days of incredible fun, learning and performance, the Weekender is a fundraiser for The Burlesque Hall of Fame, the only museum of its kind to feature the history and artists of the distinctly modern art form of burlesque. It features the 23rd Annual Tournament of the Tease, where the world's top burlesque entertainers competed for best debut, duo, group and boylesque, and for the coveted title, "Reigning Queen of Burlesque".

Having witnessed a few burlesque shows since moving to Las Vegas, I wasn't exactly a burlesque virgin going into the Tournament of Tease at the Burlesque Hall of Fame weekender. But nothing could have prepared me for the spectacle, the glamour, or the pure talent exhibited by those outstanding performers.

For those that don't know, burlesque is the art of the seductive strip. Whether clad in elaborate costumes depicting the extravagance of the stage or barely covered by a rip-away house dress, the performers seek to draw in the audience through a sensuality and subtlety long lost to the more barefaced stripper. That combination, outfit, ability and skin create an experience far more enticing and engaging than sitting next to a stage waiting to slip singles into the g-string of a girl taking her clothes off for the money. That's one important aspect of burlesque: the performers don't get rich. Most don't get paid. They're in it for the love of the art, and that love shines through in the enthusiasm.

The quality of the show was superb. I knew it would be. They were world-class performers after all. But it was the fans and the culture that were truly revealing to me. Like a crowd displaced from any one era, the suits and dresses, both worn indiscriminately by persons disregarding gender, were as carefully chosen and crafted as many of the costumes displayed on stage. While styles from the thirties and forties often prevailed, an acknowledgement of the time period that birthed what has become modern burlesque, the addition of modern touches like glitter, tattoos, piercings and inhuman hair colors round out the appearance of a group of people for whom the show is about the experience.



When I first arrived, I realized instantly that I was underdressed. Since I was attending on a press pass I figured butching out in jeans and a button up shirt would be fine. But as I made my way toward the theater entrance, I was met with a sea of swagger and sophistication in dress. Long gowns, tall heels, flowers in hair, full suits, polished shoes and bowler hats filled the casino floor. Each individual looked like a player in a show they lived everyday. Each had a smile beaming on their face. Each person wearing makeup was as sublime as the last. And as appealing as the vision of the crowd was, the support and adoration for the performers was what lingers the most to me.

When I finally found a seat, I was beside a duo of men in suits that looked like they'd been tailored from the finest couches Paris had to offer in 1938. A third man asked me if the seat on my other side was taken, then told me I was beautiful before climbing over me in his bright yellow pants and wingtips. The sight of the crowd was incredible. The scent was beer, cigarettes and that odor of thrift store clothes when you wear them without washing them first. As the lights lowered and the show began, the crowd hushed to hear the femcee. That was one of the brief moments when they were silent.

I was told at a smaller, local show that audience support is incredibly important in burlesque. There's nothing worse than being on stage and hearing crickets. That's something the community took to heart with gusto. As the first performer took the stage, rocking to AC/DC, the theater erupted in hoots and hollers. Each act was treated with a respect and reverence. The significance and importance of that mutual love would become very apparent to me later in the evening.

There's absolutely no fourth wall

in burlesque. The performer is there to be seen by the audience. The audience is there to fall for the performer. And when the show's over, the two become one as the performers leave the stage, don slightly more comfortable clothes and take seats to watch and scream for the next acts. At one point a woman came to sit two seats down from me. At the end of the night I realized, as she moved toward the stage when the time came to crown Miss Exotic World 2013—the reigning queen of burlesque—that beautiful woman, sitting inconspicuously as though she were just another member of the throng was LouLou D'vil—and she won the crown.

Burlesque is about much more than a show. It's about a culture, a community and a style. From the fashion to the hair and makeup to the creativity in each showcase, the experience of a burlesque show shines beyond what most think of as simply stripping to old timey music. The art has such depth and ambiance, and the people such acceptance and clarity, that its appeal to the LGBT community should be undeniable.

The beauty of the women as they slowly slip off what they've spent such time crafting creates a vision enthralling to anyone enticed by the female form. The pace and teasing nature form a sensuality and grace that strip clubs – aimed primarily at straight men – just can't match. The women were never fully nude, if you count pasties as clothing. And the beauty they exhibited, the passion and presence they embodied, was a superb commingling of eroticism and femininity. But don't think the lavish nature of some of the acts was the only thing attractive to the gay men. The brilliance of burlesque is that it has something for everyone.

Boylesque, the men's turn to take it off, was some of the most athletic and powerful shows I've witnessed. Hard bodies, tight moves and, of course, bare buns brought the room to a hot shout as performers like Mr. Gorgeous and Ray

Gunn, who would go on to win best boylesque, took the stage in fine suits and costumes and left in glittery thongs—barely. While the individual performers were adept at making each person in the audience feel like the show was just for them, the group acts brought a new level of sexuality and hinting.

Duos like Villiany Lovelss and Ruthe Ordare danced about each other's bodies, caressing, touching and pulling off each other's clothes like they were searching for the perfect second to kiss—which unfortunately never actually came. And trios like Swing Time, the winners of best group, took the concept of polyamorous relationships to forefront of sweetness and hilarity. If one person dancing and stripping for you isn't enough, the groups surely show that burlesque has no boundaries when it comes to sexuality or roles.



Mr. Gorgeous



The Burlesque Hall of Fame is located inside Emergency Arts, at the corner of Fremont & 6th Streets in historic Downtown Las Vegas. Visit the newly re-designed, re-structured BurlesqueHall.com to learn more about burlesque and to support BHoF's preservation and educational efforts.

One moment that I greatly appreciated personally was when the femcee, Blanche Debris, said to the audience, "...ladies, gentlemen, and everyone in between." That simple moment showed how little burlesque cares about traditional notions of gender. I witnessed people with full beards in dresses, people with breasts trying to break out of their three-piece suits, and enough people that I lost count who seemed to be going out of their way to avoid being identifiable as any gender at all. Each was accepted. Each was a part of the society. And each was looked at as nothing more or less than a burlesque fan.

The first night I found myself standing with a few men dressed more like I was than I'm happy with, their jaws on the carpet. I joked with my photographer about three women, who looked a lot like my mom on a summer day, sitting with their backs to slot machines and their eyes

stretching out their heads. And I will never forget watching a man stop his friend in his tracks, turn him around and blatantly point, like they were witnessing something so foreign they couldn't comprehend its existence. That was night one. On night two I was the one getting the stares.

On the second night, for the Icons and All-Stars showcase, I decided to put a bit more into my appearance. I threw on my favorite black dress with some black heels, shot some hairspray into my locks, and painted my lips and nails bright red. I did notice a difference in the way the crowd reacted.

I heard wows and saw smiles as I walked with a line of other women toward the restroom during intermission. I saw women leaving the restroom in awe of our outfits. And having been the type of person to get stared at a lot because of how I looked

—always by choice—I have to say it was thrilling to be a part of a group of people so passionate about being uniquely gorgeous.

Over the two nights I witnessed things that will stay with me for years. I saw performers spin inside giant rings. I saw flips and flings, both alone and in pairs, all across the stage. I'm ecstatic to have watched Laurie Hagen win best debut for her reverse striptease in which she took the stage unclothed and left in a black dress and leopard print coat, pushing a chair as she walked backward, all acquired while dancing as though she were moving from end to front to music being played in reverse. I saw gender being dismantled on stage and in the lobby. And through it all I was overwhelmed by two ideas: The LGBT community should be all over this, and how long before I can climb on stage. ■

David Carter is an award winning Las Vegas based photographer. DavidCarterPhotoDesign.com



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Tupperware: The First Social Network?

Dixie Longate Sells The Humor Of Home Products

[by Miranda boyd]

Tupperware has become synonymous with any small, plastic container that shuts with a snap or a burp. Tupperware is far more than the cheap boxes available in three packs at any Target. The experience around them holds more excitement and interest than the Freezer Mates® 7-Pc. Super Set (#81735 in your catalogs) holds leftovers. And the reigning queen of the Tupperware game is the unlikely lady from Mobile, Alabama, Miss Dixie Longate. Her quick wit and sharp tongue – sharper than the Chef Series Pro Fillet Knife (#877) – create an experience unlike anything you'd expect from a Tupperware party.



In a drawl befitting the best shrimp boat captain on the gulf coast, Dixie explains the draw of Tupperware. "Your grandma has a piece a Tupperware. You ask her where she got it and she knows where she got it, she knows what party she was at; she probly remembers who the host was. Without that story it's just a bowl. You ain't got no relationship with it. It's always just a bowl. And the thing I found is, in the end, when you gotta relationship with somethin' you end up taking better care of it. That's the nice thing about it. That's why it's a superior product that lasts forever. You're gonna have somethin' that you care about. That's why I like it." The simplicity in that explanation brings to mind the history and allure of the Tupperware party, something Dixie took to heart in crafting her own backstory.

As Dixie tells it, after being released from prison she was informed by her parole officer that in order to get her kids back she needed to get some sort of a job. She then expressed, with only a twinge of joking, "I said, 'Ew! No! I don't want my kids back. They're so sticky!'"

Dixie's parole officer then suggested that she try selling Tupperware, to which Dixie responded, "Tupperware?! You're out a your mind!" "Cause I thought that's what old ladies did," Dixie explains as though she's stirring lemonade in the Slim Line Pitcher (#81727). "But then, oh my lord, I did my first

party and I had so much fun! And I got free cocktails at the party and I said, 'Oh my lord if this is a job I'm staying!'" The hilarity and subtle nod to the adult nature – in that kids aren't usually interested in buying cooking supplies – is displayed by Dixie as she states, without a dollop of modesty, "I didn't even know Tupperware was for the kitchen the first few years. I thought it was in the bedroom. And my reverend said, 'Hey what's all that stuff under your bed?' And I said, '**Hey, why are you in my bedroom on a Thursday, reverend?**' And he was so sweet he said, 'You know you can use this in the kitchen.' I said, 'Shut your damn mouth.' And I took some of my favorite pieces from under the bed, I washed 'em off and I said 'Oh my lord in the kitchen?! Shut up! That's amazing!'"

The amazement that led Dixie to her new career and fame conjures an excitement in her that shines in her whimsical voice as she says what she loves about Tupperware. "Well first of all, it's been around forever, it's got a lifetime warranty. If anything goes wrong with it I can replace it free of charge. Try going to that teller at Target and say, 'Hey can you replace my damn thing that broke?' And she's gonna say, 'Get your ass out my line!' And, you know, the thing that I love is your grandmamma had it, she wrote her name on the bottom of it

with Sharpie so when she'd take 'em to the church bizarre and social she'd say, 'Ooh you want some of my ambrosia salad? But you better give me back my damn Tupperware bowl or I'll cut your arms off!'"

That level of humor and creativity, along with the ability to think and speak faster than the Smooth Chopper blends and whisks (#1241), made Dixie more than a household name when she held parties the old fashioned way. And it brought her, and Tupperware, to the attention of the theater world when a friend, who happened to be a director, approached Dixie and said, in Dixie's words, "Oh my lord this is so fun! You gotta make this into a show! And we just worked on it together a little and then wrote the whole story together, a little bit a story about me, a little bit a story about Tupperware and how great it is, then we took it ta New York ta just sort of test it out and it got so much attention!"

Once in New York, the show moved off-Broadway, and in 2008 the tour began. Dixie has taken her unique method of storytelling and Tupperware-selling all around the world. The venue may change, it may be grander and more extravagantly lit—and it may cost \$30+ to get in—but the sentiment and purpose of the events are the same as what your grandmother experienced in her friend's living room years ago. "It was

just like doin' my parties," Dixie says, "Now I'm just doin' it in a much bigger livin' room."

While Dixie does her best to keep the heart of the Tupperware party in tact, the theater setting does provide her with the opportunity to indulge. "At the beginning of the party I get to go into the audience to meet everybody and I have candy that I pass out to everybody." Dixie's clear love of meeting new people is one of the many reasons she's the most successful Tupperware salespersons around. And that love makes every show unique. "I get people up on stage to help me with some of the demos. I do raffles and games and stuff like that. I get a bunch of people from the audience to come up. So it's always personal. Every time I do it it's gonna be different because you never know who you're gonna get up on stage and what they're gonna do there."

That heart, the connection to a past when lives and homes were as bright as the Patriotic Tumblers (#81741), is what Dixie cherishes about the history and nostalgia of Tupperware. To Dixie, "The thing about the Tupperware parties that I always think is so wonderful is it's sorta like the first social network. It's a buncha people getting together and sharin' stories."

That social link is something Dixie feels has been lacking in our modern culture. She laments, in her own folksy way, the loss of personal connection saying, "The thing about now with all the phones and all the twittin' [sic] ... it's like people being less social. You ever meet somebody online, and then you meet 'em in person and he really clams up? And you have a night out with your friends but you can't wait to get home and get on Facebook and stop talking to your friends and start pretending to talk to people."

She then conveys how Tupperware, something simple, wholesome and pure can quell at least some of those ills. "I think the thing I love about Tupperware parties is it hauls people back into that age a being together. Have some fun, get your hands

'Ooh you want some of my ambrosia salad? But you better give me back my damn Tupperware bowl or I'll cut your arms off!'"

dirty, roll your sleeves up, and that's just the happiest. I've always been raised that way."

Whether you want to enjoy a raucous evening of quick-witted jokes and innuendo, share a unique night out with some friends, or just want to pick up some new Pie Press/Empanada Makers (#711); Dixie's Tupperware party is sure to delight, liven and sell you on the idea of a more sociable society. As Dixie herself puts it, "It's a Tupperware party, you're gonna have fun; but it's also sort of like an evening of empowerment... You'll laugh your ass off and have a great ole time. And you're gonna leave just feeling a little bit better about yourself." ■



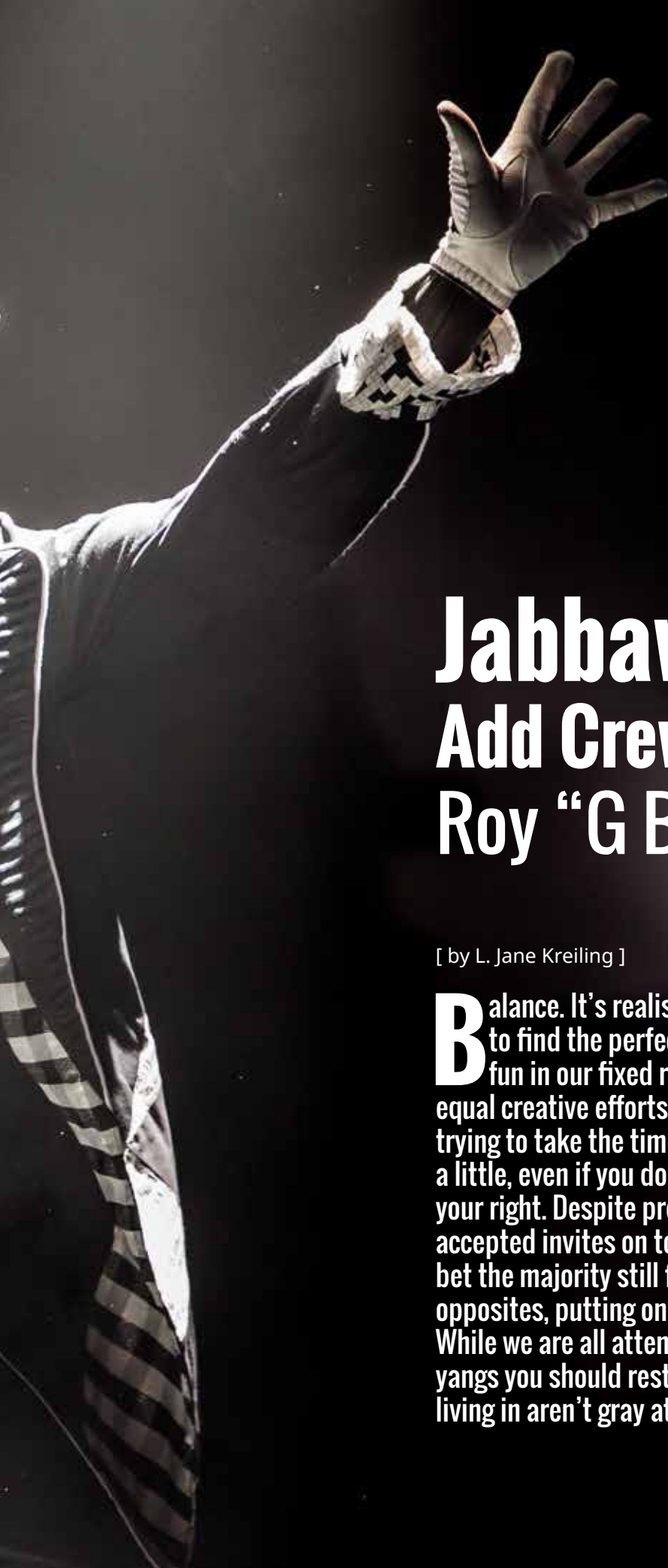
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Jabbawockeez Add Crewmember: Roy “G Balance” Biv

[by L. Jane Kreiling]

Balance. It's realistic to say we are all trying to find the perfect weight for both work and fun in our fixed routines; we should be giving equal creative efforts to our logical outputs and trying to take the time to let go of it all and dance a little, even if you don't know your left foot from your right. Despite precisely planned meetings and accepted invites on too many social networks, I'd bet the majority still feel like they live in the grays of opposites, putting on weight and unraveling unevenly. While we are all attempting to be the perfect yin and yangs you should rest assured that those grays you're living in aren't gray at all, they are colors.



It's the Grand Opening of PRISM presented by the Jabbawockeez and the once chatty audience that sat in anticipation now sits in awe—all emotions and excitement are completely controlled by the masked puppet master with his black and white Mad Hatter meets Joker garb. The sweet sounds of Willy Wonka's 'Imagination' invites us to come along, "We'll begin with a spin traveling in a world of imagination. What we'll see will defy explanation." The two million dollars put into the custom built theater at the Luxor Hotel and Casino provides 850 seats all in comfortably close proximity to the dancers. The theater quickly becomes more than an imagination home, it becomes a new world. The light show and bass drop after bass drop illuminate the theater; there's a rush through your veins, you literally get chills and realize you haven't stopped smiling since the crew came out in black and white streams. Any stiffness your jaw may have still had before entering the room drops with "I'm Different" by 2 Chainz. You're flat out grooving, barely in your seat, lost in your own head spins.

It's an awakening of huge proportion when they introduce Roy G. Biv to the stage, a new mask, you could say, to the once only black and white

covered crew. The theatrics of their break dancing and popping explore the seven unique ways “colors make the world”. Each colored breaker performs with their own attitude, all explosively moving together to create visually stimulating combinations composed of flips and spins and slides.

We purposely don't see any faces under the white masks of each dancer as gender, skin tone and expressions are all masked, leaving only the distinct message and moves they make together for us to follow, absorb and judge based upon what's left: their talent in this dance form and the costumes that make them into characters. They may be performers, on a stage, doing a job—but they may be making a huge statement through the power they have made for themselves and the talent that brought them to Sin City. They have perfected balance in movement, spread the message of individual efforts for equality and enabled acceptance for 850 people. The bigger picture of peace within colors, people, and interactions all stick. The Jabbawockeez literally invite you to get up and dance with them, right there with your own two feet (blending the line between stage and seat), and not

one of them is telling you how to shake your hips. It's a movement of physical and mental release and acceptance. It's not just black and white we live in, we are all colored and we are all different but we dance this dance together.

With the return of the puppet master and his magical Willy Wonka serenades, it is sewn into us to pick any colored mask we wish, put it on and push (or pop or floorflip or backspin) the line of gravity weighing you any which way. Find your opposite and find balance with them and every color in between. Dance freely and daringly, be the plane or be the parachute but don't let your imagination die—“Living there you'll be free if you truly wish to be.”

The talent this group has cannot be ignored or downplayed, it is fast paced and comical, slow and intriguing. They were a bike, a plane, a helicopter, a boat and even a racecar complete with driver and not a single one of them call themselves a leader. It's their collaboration together to pick the music, choreograph and complete the incredible show that defines the Jabbawockeez. It's their job to balance and they do it wildly. ■



“...they may be making a huge statement through the power they have made for themselves and the talent that brought them to Sin City”

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CANCER (JUN 22 - JUL 22)

A complimentary spiritual partnership arrives. This new friend, pet or lover's energy instills new ways of being in you. The new found laughter and play are immediate indicators of a deep karmic connection and its timely healing qualities. The undoing of past painful emotional experiences occurs and healthier new perspectives related to self-love are gained.



LEO (JUL 23 - AUG 22)

Unnecessary feelings of regret have weighed down your soul. You did the very best that you could at the time and under the circumstances. And now that you know better, you choose to, and do, do better. The learning lesson has passed and has already been integrated into your spirit where self-doubts are soon to be banished. Free yourself to better attach in a more accurate way to your perceived regrets: Regrets are only mere gentle reminders that focus and enable you to be more of the person today you always wished to be.



VIRGO (AUG 23 - SEP 22)

A wild ride is about to occur. The floor is about to fall out on that predictable and well-planned life you expected. Don't fear change this month, it's coming with or without your permission. There were foretelling signs that change was underway, however, a blind-eye can no longer prevent this imminent reality. A roller coaster of emotions may be hard to bear, but the destination is a true gift.



LIBRA (SEP 23 - OCT 22)

Calls from abroad ring in shared celebration in reflection of your personal and financial accomplishments. Reflection of where you are today vs. the long-term past provide further clarity of purpose and deep levels of feeling at ease. Better than winning the lotto—you did it all on your own. Travel becomes a justified, refreshing, and a welcomed personal reward.



SCORPIO (OCT 23 - NOV 21)

Educating/mentoring others can lead to new directions in your own life. You've incarnated into this physical life to transform what are often perceived as negatives into shared and helpful learning with and for others. The innate healing qualities that are within you become more apparent to those around you through simply being within your healing presence. A quick trip to the bookstore will intuitively draw you to an interesting read that awakens previously unknown parts of your soul.



SAGITTARIUS (MAR 20 - APRIL 19)

A blast from the past shows up unexpectedly at your door. Love and fond feelings create an opening for joy and new adventures. Be quick in decisions, spontaneous, and throw caution to the wind. Enjoy the exuberant wonder of an unplanned trip. Call your boss and tell him to put all your calls on hold until you feel like coming back.



CAPRICORN (MAR 20 - APRIL 19)

Feelings of jealousy reveals it's true spiritual value to you this month. Through synchronicity, you begin to realize that you can't be jealous about someone else's gains that you yourself can achieve. Taking action is incompatible with feeling blue; even a dead end reveals a welcomed clarity of mismatch to your soul, predicting future alignment. Go forward, failure doesn't exist—only growth.



AQUARIUS (MAR 20 - APRIL 19)

The blame that held you back from connecting to those who love you the most, dissolves. The child within you wished to live in a perfect world, with perfect parents, perfect relatives, perfect mates, and perfect experiences. However to live in such a world, no personal or spiritual growth could occur. Forgiveness of self and others promotes a deeper connection to those who matter most. "A person often travels the world in search of what they need and only returns home to find it."



PISCES (FEB 19 - MAR 19)

By not working on your fears, excessive needs for control has wreaked havoc on the blameless hearts around you. Your past requirements for perfectionism in others was simply a result and projection of your own inability to identify and address your own fears. As your issues are now addressed appropriately, fear falls away as your infinitely compassionate soul emerges. As you free your slaves from being human-doings vs. human-beings, a great spiritual lesson is granted to, and embraced by you: "Free yourself of what you fear first, in order to free others. Live simply, so that others may simply live."



ARIES (MAR 20 - APR 19)

Divine inspiration, humility, and gratitude are your best weapons in times of struggle with others. What you fear you will later win or lose is not at issue. In times of conflict, when egos' fears and thoughts of malice dominate the arena, the wise pull back from their own ego to peer more deeply into the eye of the storm to clarify what is truly important and what is to be learned about self. Bury the hatchet to learn the lesson.



TAURUS (APR 20 - MAY 20)

"Keeping up with the Jones" has denied your spirit's true nature. It is time to more deeply contemplate the importance of individuality, altruism, and your soul's unique purpose. When we were 20, we were worried about what others thought about us. When we were 40, we didn't care what others thought about us. When we reached 60, we finally realized, no one was ever thinking about us in the first place. Unlock and honor your own true spirit's needs in expression this month. Happiness begins with "free-to-be-me," where only you hold the key.



GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUNE 21)

Favors are returned based upon your karmic contributions in the past. Although unexpected, it is your own past good-will towards others that has earned you such rewards. Practice becoming more open to receiving. Accept all compliments, money, and gifts, as well as the kind gestures from strangers on their genuine face-value. All that will be given to you is your own earned and just rewards to treasure.



About the Author: Mike Schopp is a gay Psychic Medium with 20+ years of experience. He connects directly with clients' spirit guides. His inborn gifts are clairvoyance, clairaudience, & clairsentience which he uses to share messages from the Spirit-World. Educated at the Arthur Findlay College for Mediums in England and the California School of Psychology, he blends channeling and humor with his professional experiences in counseling, career assessment, and organizational development to jump-start others to identify and achieve their soul's dreams.

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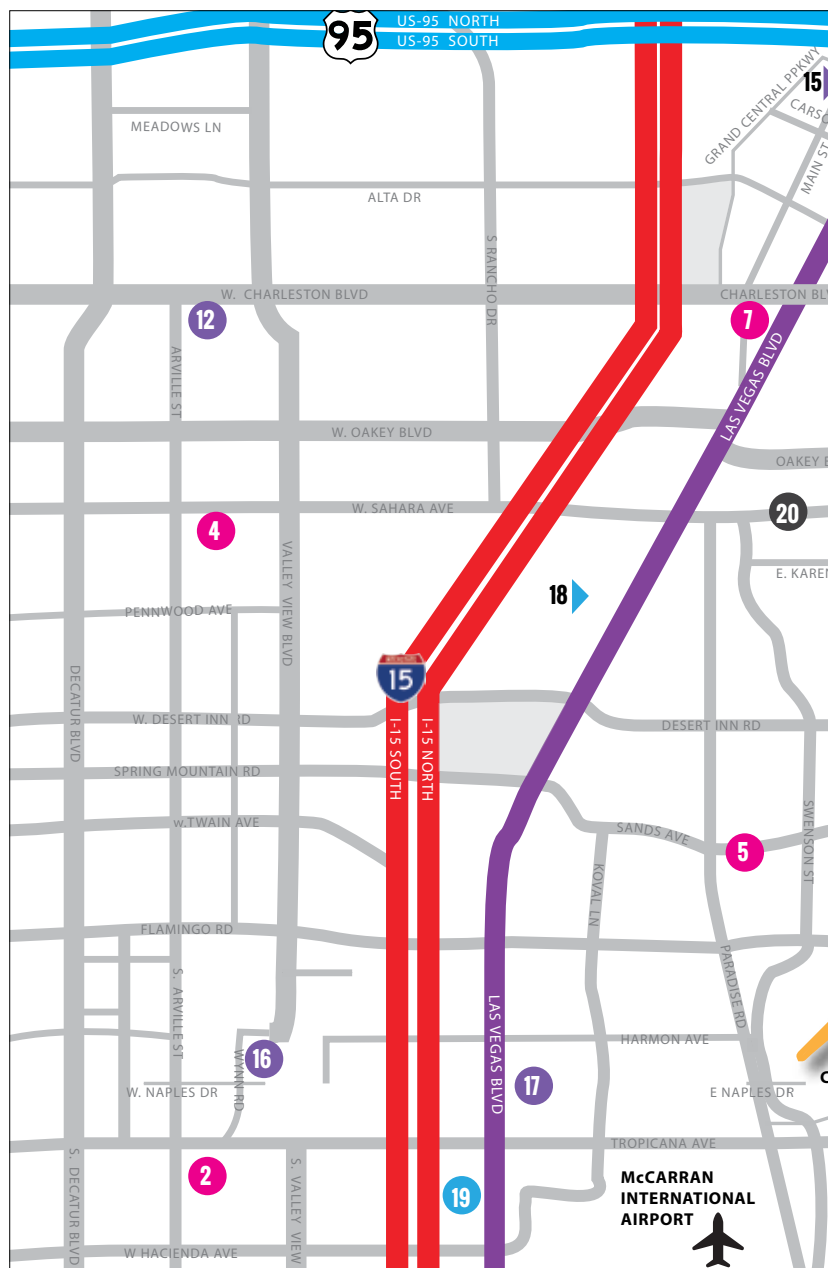
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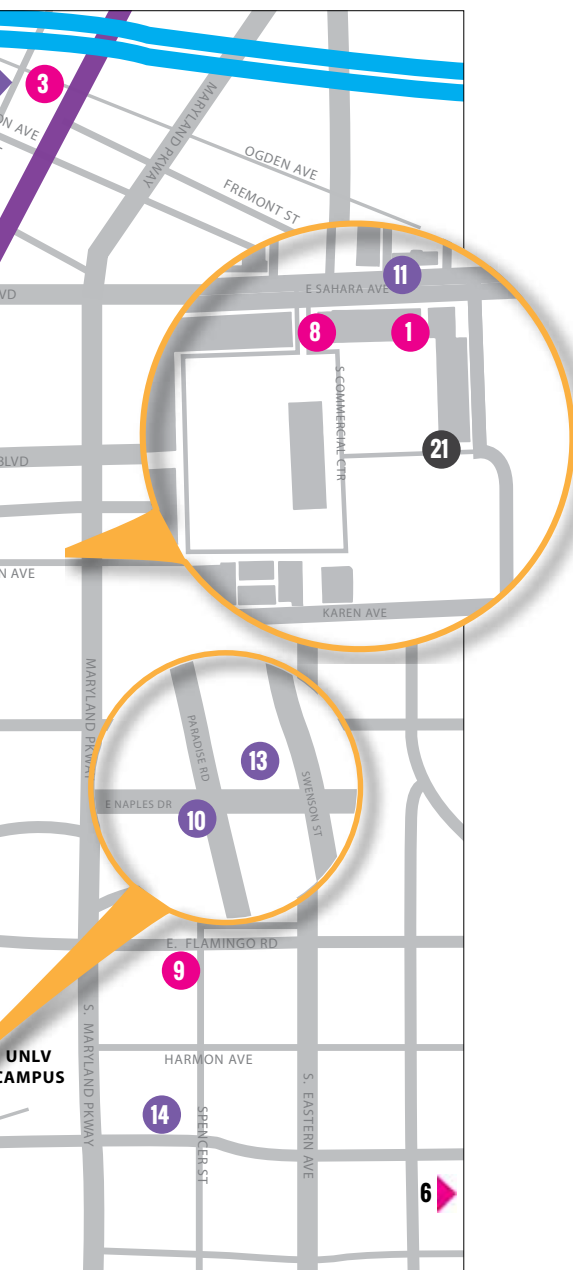
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QVEGAS BUSINESS ALLIANCE NEWS & UPDATES

LGBT RIGHTS COME WITH RESPONSIBILITIES:

Progress Is Slower Than Desired But We Can See The Light At The End Of The Tunnel

by Gary Vrooman

Pre-Planning Advisor

Palm Mortuary & Cemetery

The June 2013 front page of *Las Vegas Night Beat* reads, "The Final Insult. Did Palm Mortuary disregard gay partner's legal rights...?" Sadly, I read the story. That is exactly why the education of our community is so very important. Far too many in our community believes that "Times have changed and the world is accepting of our relationships." We cannot make the mistake to think that even our most trusted business will break the laws to accommodate our community. Even families can still be cruel but we have seen progress.

Most businesses today accept us with open arms as employees and customers but the laws in most states and this country are not as accepting. We would like to think that we have "equal rights" but the law prohibits that, in many cases, unless we are diligent in preparing our legal options. Without those safeguards in place, even those who would most desire to accommodate our wishes, have their hands tied. Mortuaries and cemeteries are strictly regulated by federal and state laws which cannot be bent even with the best intentions. That is why I encourage the community to pre-plan our legal options and estates.

I deeply hurt personally for John McKim and his loss of Steve DelNero. Even after 30 years of being partners in life, without the proper paperwork, no funeral home could follow the instructions of the surviving loved one legally. That is the very reason we need to make sure our community understands, while the world

is changing, it has not changed enough yet. The laws are antiquated but we have no option but to follow them until they are changed. We need to continue to press firmly for revision.

I have fought hard since 1965 for gay rights, helping to found the Gay Liberation Front. In 1972, I was instrumental in founding The

(Gay) Center for Social Services in San Diego, California which proudly exists to this day. In 1972 the state would not allow even the word gay in state documents. I have only 48 years of fighting for gay rights to date, a domestic partner of 41 years and yet we still do not have even near equal rights. Progress is slower than desired but we can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

We must protect our community against heartbreaking occurrences as befell John McKim recently. In full disclosure, I work for Palm in pre-planning sales. Palm & I are members of LAMBDA and QBA. I care deeply about my community. Prevention is the smartest plan we can put into place but most of the community is not well informed of the requirements under the law. Historically those of us who know what needs to be done, put it off far too long. Never gamble on your final wishes. Prior planning can prevent painful results. ■



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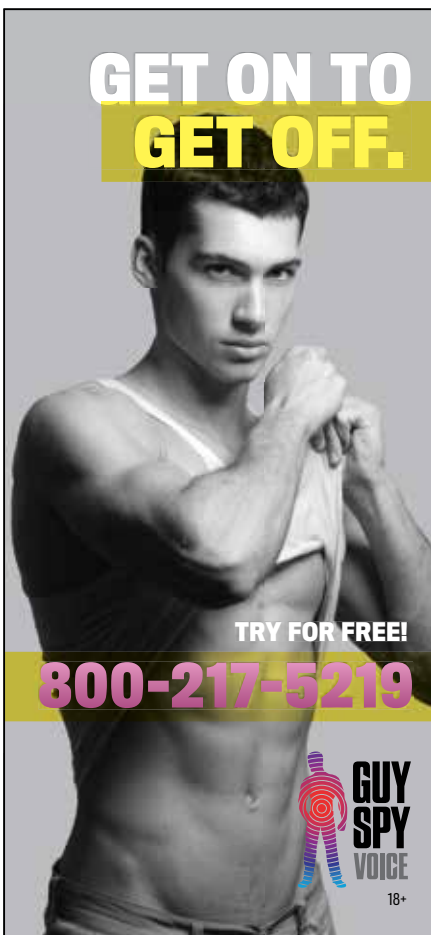
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BY EDWARD D PADILLA

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT WHAT CHANGES WILL ADAPS FACE?

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) is the most exciting news for those living with HIV/AIDS by making medications and healthcare available to everyone. Currently, fewer than one in five people living with HIV have private health insurance and nearly 30% do not have any coverage. An estimated 40,000 people cannot afford life-saving medications, and many turn to AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs) for help.

With the ACA beginning its rollout, does this mean the end of ADAPs? If the government covers the cost, have certain programs become outdated?

Starting in 2014, when the major provisions of the law kick in, many HIV-positive people who currently receive medication through state-based ADAPs will shift to Medicaid, others will receive subsidized coverage through their state's health insurance exchange. This will help, as federal funding for ADAP programs has steadily decreased over the past five years.

Between June 2009 and June 2010, drug expenditures grew 16%. These costs reflect more complex drug regimens and patient longevity. People remain enrolled in ADAPs longer than in the past, and some transition to more costly drug regimens for treating comorbidities.

"In June 2010, the average price per prescription was \$325, compared to \$302 in June 2009, about an 8% increase according to NASTAD (National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors)." Ed Silverman, a Pharnalot representative, said. "And the average expenditure per prescription for an antiretroviral (ARV) was \$491, a significantly higher cost than other meds, which average between \$64 and \$67. The ACA circumvents

these costs, but there is still a deductible attached. ADAPs may refocus to help with those payments, but will the government want to continue this expenditure?"

Dennis Wright, APLA, said, "We raise funding from private donors as well as receiving government aid. With the implementation of the ACA, our goal will change from medication to prevention. We're looking at huge relief in 2014." Mr. Wright adds, "With the ACA, organizations can teach people how to avoid HIV, and, in turn, less people need medications. ADAPs will continue for those who need help, but, I think we'll see a substantial decrease in new HIV diagnoses over the next few years."

The Virginia Department of Health for example, has suspended all registration for ADAPs until the full roll-out of the ACA. They currently provide assistance to over 600 individuals with their prescriptions. The program will need federal and state governments to allocate less to their ADAP program, hopes to phase out government assistance. Their goal is to use the ACA to shift the ADAP budget to other health issues. The current ACA bill has an annual deductible for all medications, a co-pay of \$500 a year (educated estimate) versus \$1000 a month lifts a huge burden." The Virginia DOH will continue their ADAP program, but on a more manageable scale.

As the United States struggles, our closest neighbor with national healthcare, Canada, gives hope for an optimistic outlook. Canada reports a documented cumulative 13,635 AIDS-related deaths, .04% of Canada's total population, compared to a cumulative 601,000+ AIDS-related deaths, .019% of the USA's total population (reported December 2011). These numbers reflect a success from their national health coverage.



I am attending the conference as the chair speaker on fundraising, and will be present at lectures focusing on ACA in comparison with other national healthcare programs.

"Antiretroviral Therapies (ARVs) are available in Canada," said Francois Dumontier, TRIP Project. "We don't have ADAPs to help people obtain medications. Our focus remains on normal necessities such as rent, food, utilities, and preventative education. The more people we can keep from contracting the disease, the less we see in ARV need." Francois said, "Most DB (Drug Benefit) programs have a small annual deductible averaging \$100 per year. This is an easier individual cost to bear than in the USA." Francois adds, "The cost of medication differs between the States and Canada. Since we have a base cost ceiling, manufacturers don't inflate their price. I believe manufacturers will decrease their price, deductibles will lessen, and you'll find medications affordable to more of the population."

"ADAPs will not die, but the government won't help keep them alive." Adds Stephen Tilbert, Ottawa AIDS Society, "In the US, HIV carries the designation as a 'Gay Disease'. This 'disgrace' explains the decrease in government funding. There will be costs associated with medications, but I believe federal funds to HIV organizations will cease as soon as possible."

More information pertaining to this subject will be available after the International AIDS Society conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia being held June 30 - July 3, 2013.

The Affordable Care Act makes considerable strides in addressing medicinal concerns and advancing equality for people living with HIV and AIDS. HIV and AIDS organizations can help with smaller deductibles for medications, but fundraising will focus on education and quality of life programs for those enjoying increased longevity. ADAPs will continue, but their needs may diminish as we step into our new future. ■



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