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ON THE COVER



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Editor's Note

August is a month that makes you want to strip down beneath your skin in Las Vegas. The temperatures easily max out to 110's. Most of us use this opportunity to enjoy frozen treats and poolside retreats. Barbecue grills are still going and the valley continues to see Gay clubs open and shutter. Liaison and Phoenix are among the newest to open their doors while Krave has once again closed its doors to party goers. Be sure to check out Garrett's Gay Guide in this issue of QVegas or log on to QVegas.com to find the latest nightlife T'.



We've titled this issue The Skin Issue and our models in this issue are just as hot as August. We've gathered some tanning and skin care tips just for this issue. When talking about skin we know that pride and acceptance doesn't always run skin deep. QVegas had the chance to speak with a Las Vegas native showgirl, Desarae Pendavis and ask her about loving the skin your in. She spoke candidly about her life and the growth path she's been on.

We round the issue up with a word on AFAN's annual Black & White party. This annual fund raiser has been apart of Vegas tradition for many years. I've been an attendee for the last three years and I must admit this is one event you don't want to miss. Find your most extravagant black and white getup, purchase your tickets and come on out for a night you won't regret.

Janise "Noah" Henderson
@NOAHSARTARK

I WANT TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS

Do you have something on your mind?

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

Do you have an idea for a future story?



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GILEAD: THE SOVALDI TAX

Forbes
com

“The drug Sovaldi is generating enormous profits on the backs of patients...” *June 16th, 2014*

A cure for Hepatitis C is within reach for 170 million people around the world thanks to poor and sick Americans who are picking up the tab.

Gilead Sciences, the manufacturer of the Hepatitis C drug Sovaldi has priced the medication at \$1,000 each in the United States. An entire treatment regimen of 84 of those pills costs just \$900 in Egypt.

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2 STEPS FORWARD...

[by Cameron Catton]



Laverne Cox Emmy Nomination

"Orange Is the New Black" star and transgender activist Laverne Cox has been making 2014 a year of firsts for the trans community.

Earlier this year, she was the first transgender person to appear on the cover of TIME Magazine, making publishing history around the world and addressing Cox's disturbing absence from the TIME 100 most influential people list in April. Cox has

celebratory feelings, citing Sidney Poitier's statements when he won an Academy Award fifty years ago. Poitier said that it was not a full victory because he was the only black actor to have made the achievement, and Cox agrees, saying, "The revolution happens when it's not just me - when there's more of us."

Be Your Way

Burger King still wants you to have it your way: the Burger King Proud Whopper debuted for a week at one location on Market Street in San Francisco during the city's 44th annual

recently been nominated for an Emmy Award for Outstanding Guest Actress In a Comedy transgender person to be nominated for an Emmy in an acting category. Laverne Cox is cautious about her

PRIDE celebration. This particular Burger King was on the PRIDE parade route, and encouraged patrons to enjoy the burger, which came wrapped in a rainbow colored wrapper with the inscription, "We Are All the Same Inside." Burger King's senior vice president of global brand management stated that this is a part of the company's efforts to remain relevant with millennial fast food diners. The company tweaked their slogan to, "Be Your Way" for the campaign, and even passed out 50,000 rainbow cardboard crowns. All Proud Whopper sandwich sales were donated to the Burger King McLamore Foundation for scholarships benefiting LGBT high school seniors graduating in spring 2015.



Republican Support for Marriage Equality

GOP Rep. David Jolly came out in support of marriage equality in a Washington Post interview. Jolly thinks the government should



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support both traditional and same-sex marriages, as in his statement he said, "But as a matter of Constitutional principle I believe in a form of limited government that protects personal liberty," Jolly said. "To me, that means that the sanctity of one's marriage should be defined by their faith and by their church, not by their state. Accordingly, I believe it is fully appropriate for a state to recognize both traditional marriage as well as same-sex marriage, and therefore I support the recent decision by a Monroe County Circuit Judge." The judge he mentioned, Luis Garcia, has ordered county officials to begin issuing same-sex marriage licenses. Rep. Jolly is the eighth current Republican member of Congress to support gay marriage.

More Strides in HIV Research

Most modern HIV treatments suffer from the same problem: HIV simply does not want to leave the body completely. All strategies currently developed to fight HIV, from anti-



HIV drugs to targeting vaccines are still unable to completely purge latent HIV from cells. HIV can hide in cells for years before flaring up again later, unexpectedly. Kamel Khalili, director of the Comprehensive NeuroAIDS Center at Temple University School of Medicine, has successfully spliced HIV from cells, returning them to their pre-infection state. The strategy, known as CRISPR, relies on detecting and binding HIV-related genetic material, and is the first anti-HIV methodology that could find even the dormant virus hiding in immune cells. Tests have been run on human cells in cultures, but Khalili believes that the technique is ready for testing on animals.

#BornPerfect

The National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR), champions issues for the entire LGBTQ community, and recently launched #BornPerfect:

The Campaign to End Conversion Therapy. This national program is aimed at protecting youth from the life changing harms caused by attempts to change their sexual orientation and gender identities. These "therapies" can alienate young people from family and friends, cause serious depression and even suicide attempts. Also known as "reparative therapy" and "ex-gay therapy," few practices are known to be more harmful to LGBTQ youth, and #BornPerfect specifically provides resources to state legislators and LGBTQ leaders around the country to build solid foundations of awareness as well as fighting in court cases for the safety and well-being of LGBTQ youth who are placed in therapeutic treatments for conversion. Every major mental health organization has discredited and condemned the use of conversion techniques, but many unethical therapists continue to utilize these damaging treatments.



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No Reproductive Justice

The United States Supreme Court, divided deeply, ruled that some for-profit companies, on religious grounds, cannot be required to pay for specific types of contraceptive methods for their employees. This decision caused a major political and legal setback in the Affordable Care Act, often referred to as "Obamacare." Under the ruling, Hobby Lobby, a national arts and crafts store, now denies coverage of particular contraceptives in their healthcare plans, including, "the morning after pill," equating it with abortion. The ruling favored businesses feeling that Obamacare violated their First Amendment rights of religious freedom. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) felt that businesses can now deny employees a benefit guaranteed by law because of the business' religious beliefs. Reproductive justice is a part of the LGBTQ movement in that it supports the rights of individuals to have the children they want, raise the children they have, and plan their families through legal access to



abortion and contraception as well as the right to express one's sexuality without oppression. The sexual and reproductive health of the LGBTQ community is equally impaired by disparate access to high quality, culturally competent health care services.

Housing Discrimination

For months, a black transgender student known only as Jayce M. has been attempting to get permission from George Fox University to live on campus with his friends. Jayce filed a Title IX discrimination complaint with the Department of Education after negotiations with the school seemed to go nowhere. George Fox University, a Christian university of liberal arts and sciences in Oregon, had ostensibly been working with Jayce

to find an agreeable solution, but the case was suddenly closed and the complaint denied by the Department of Education, who granted George Fox University a "religious exemption," a familiar phrase these days, so that the school could legally deny Jayce housing. Exemptions take years to obtain, and it was soon revealed that the university had been negotiating with the student in seemingly good faith while secretly applying to receive a speedy exemption. Jayce was understandably upset by the decision, saying, "I'm shocked and disappointed that the federal government has given George Fox permission to discriminate against me and is allowing it to do so with federal funds... But I'm not giving up. I deserve to be treated like the other men on campus. Apparently, the university disagrees, as they have made clear by forcing me to live off-campus." George Fox University has continued to ignore requests for public comment on the matter.

Immigration Reform

Immigration reform, an ongoing debate in America, still faces

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opposition, even right here in Las Vegas. Many anti-immigrant groups have specifically targeted unaccompanied children fleeing violence and entering the United States through the southern border. Their homes have very serious problems with gang violence, murder and child sex work. Anti-immigrant groups want pressure on the Obama administration to not make broad decisions on immigration reform. Supporters of this belief staged what was called a, "National Day of Protesting Against Immigration Reform, Amnesty & Border Surge," rally series. The protests had turnouts of extremely low numbers. In Vegas, one person came to represent the anti-immigrant sentiment. Their

messages, however, included signs reading, "Send in the National Guard." Comprehensive immigration reform would offer safety to LGBTQ people seeking asylum and protection from violence in their countries of origin. Mexico, for example, has extremely high rates of anti-transgender violence. Reform would also make immigration detention facilities safer for LGBTQ detainees who are at a higher risk of abuse and sexual violence. In May, the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia was held in many countries around the world. IDAHOT began in 2004 to draw the attention of policy makers, social movements and the public in general to these issues, as well as to foster a culture of acceptance and love for all people. The Transgender Violence Tracking Portal (TVTP), a new method of collecting and analyzing data in crimes against trans people, issued its first report not long ago. Sobering data showed that, in total, almost 10% of all reported violence was suffered by transgender youth, including an 8 year-old boy being beaten to death by his father for being transgender and a

14
year-old

1 STEP BACK

strangled and shoved under a mattress. Data suggests that reported crimes against trans people are more common during the winter, but TVTP notes that their numbers are staggeringly low when compared to the true picture of what is happening to the transgender community. Most anti-transgender crimes do not get reported at all out of fear of repercussions, increased danger, or the belief that the community simply does not care enough to take action to protect trans people.

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Getting Comfortable in my Skin

Desarae PENDAVIS

by FRM Taylor



In today's world it is so easy to get caught up in what is considered acceptable and/or is the 'in' thing. Which leads to questioning being comfortable in ones skin, how to accept ourselves and how to avoid low self esteem and depression. As an adult who has experienced some thangs and seen some thangs, I am grateful to say that I am truly comfortable in my skin. I do worry for our younger generations behind me who haven't come into their own. How do we lead our young to being comfortable in themselves? Who can be role models for them? I found my answers in one of our very own Vegas role models, Ms. Desarae Pendavis.

Born here in Sin City some years ago (we will not reveal the lady's age ;-)) Desarae began female impersonation at the age of 16. Inspired by her Drag mother, Coco VanCartier, Desarae began her transition to a transgender showgirl in the summer of 1993. That was also the summer that her sisters in the house of Pendavis gave her the name Desarae Pendavis. She has toured in 44 of the 50 states in the USA. She has performed as such great acts as Whitney Houston, Diana Ross, RuPaul and Toni Braxton. I asked who was her favorite Diva to impersonate and while she believes that they are all fabulous and great, Desarae prefers simply being herself. Miss D has had the opportunity to be both a ballroom queen as well as a pageant queen here in Vegas as well as across the U.S with awards and tittles in both areas, including 1st time in drag at a ball and Showgirl extravaganza. I believe it is safe to say that Ms. Pendavis is a beautiful and talented Lady.

Talking with Miss D, I have come to realize that on top of being an talented performer, she has a warm and bubbly personality. She also

appears to be completely comfortable in the skin she is in. I asked her if she had ever experienced any self-doubt or low self-esteem and if so how did she overcome it. To which she laughingly told me of a small period of self doubt she experienced at the age of 18. You see, Desarae prefers to date gay men and at the time it was considered taboo for gay men to date drag queens. So unfortunately her love life took a blow, but instead of dwelling on it she decided to focus on being fabulous and her career being amazing. Apparently Desarae's lack of interest in the dating scene and her career going to the next level had an appealing affect on gay men. Soon, Ms D had more than enough suitors to choose from. Which leads to the old saying that you always get what you want when you aren't looking for it.

We talked about today's media touching on shows like Rupaul's Drag Race and Orange is the New Black. When I ask her about maybe one day trying out for Rupaul, Desarae says that she feels a bit long in the tooth to compete with girls new to drag, and she much rather be a mentor to younger drag sisters. I find that truly humbling that Desarae prefers to help and train than to compete against younger queens. When I asked if she was a fan of Laverne Cox, Desarae confirmed that she was a big fan of Ms.Cox. She also is happy for her success with the show.

I also asked Desarae if her faith in God has any affect on her personality and her transition and she humbly said "yes" and simply "I love the Lord". She went on to explain that while she is spiritual she is not religious. She and I both agree that as LGBTQ members at times we have to step out of or even around organized

religion and find our own peace, spiritual understanding and journey. Also having a strong foundation whatever that may be makes is that much easier to move forward and be comfortable in our skin. Desarae is extremely thankful that she has had her faith and been blessed so far on her journey.

I inquired as to what else outside of her faith has helped in her journey as well as her evolution of self. To which she jokingly replied being 'pretty' helped. And since we all have seen Miss. D, I tend to agree. She went on to say that she remained optimistic from the beginning. Go so far as to take every negative comment and doubt and turn it into constructive criticism. She says that she worked hard and never gave up on her goals or dreams.

Desarae Pendavis has thrived on a mix of inner love of self, faith, determination and talent, which has led to her continued success. She is a true role model who has made an art form of making the haters eat their words of doubt. I believe she is true example on how hard work and optimism can lead to being happy and comfortable in the skin you are in. She is an example to young and old alike of what fabulous and talent look like. I think that youth should remember Miss Pendavis when finding themselves and know that they too can do ANYTHING they put their minds to. As well as have opportunity to be comfortable in their own FABULOUS skin.



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6 Shreck

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8 Vegas Mpowerment's Potluck Social

7:30-10PM

VMP and Top This Pizza present: There is nothing wrong with being a bottom...but it is GREAT to be a TOP!—an Italian theme pot luck. Bring you favorite dishes from pastas, pizzas, salads, breads and desserts! Most of all BRING YOURSELF! Everyone and every dish is welcomed!

17 Date Night

7PM at The Center

Start saving your pennies! Date Nite, a charity auction to benefit The Center at Revolution Lounge offers up more than 20 members of our community **(including Me!)** on the auction block for a one-on-one date featuring a delicious dinner and charming conversation. Tickets are just \$15 in advance online or \$20 at the door.

<http://thecenterlv.org/datenite>

10 Sisters n' Sinners Community Luncheon

2PM Hard Rock Cafe

Las Vegas PRIDE OUTside is a new LGBT hiking group in Las Vegas that meets the 2nd Saturday of each month to go hiking at Calico Basin. Limited parking is available at the Kraft Mountain Loop parking area. Bring your own snacks and plenty of water to stay hydrated.

12 Ghost the Musical

Aug 12-17

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<http://thesmithcenter.com>



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<http://bit.ly/AFANBandW2014>

21 HRC+QVegas 3rd Thursdays

6-8PM

Hear the latest on the status of the Nevada Court Case in the 9th Circuit, as well as the steps to push SJR13 through again in the next legislative session. In addition to Marriage Equality Issues, we will touch on ENDA and other protections for LGBTQ Americans as well as upcoming HRC events and opportunities."

[HumanRightsCampaignLV](#)

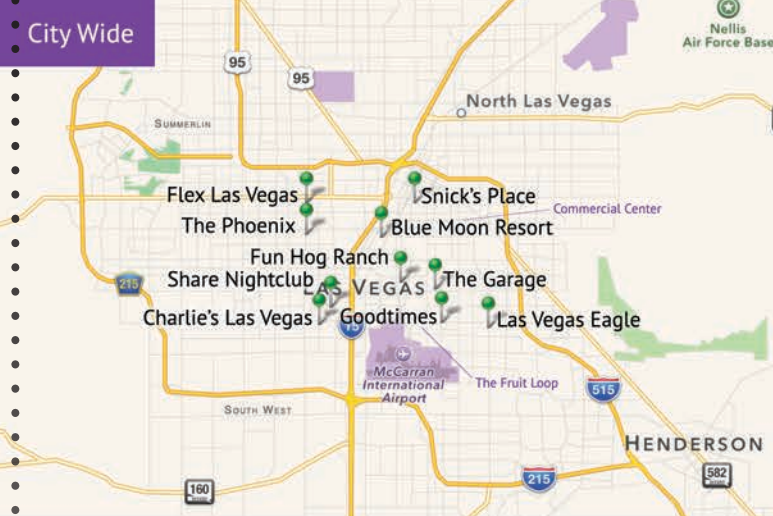
29 Festival

Labor Day Weekend

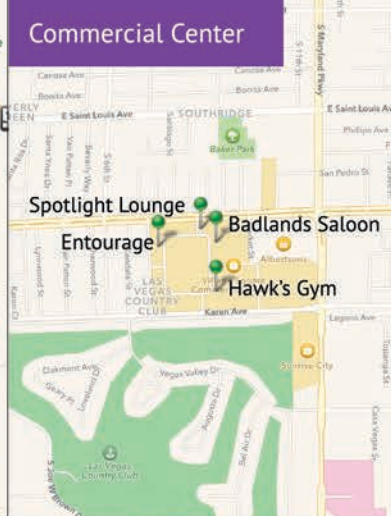
Close out the Vegas Summer Season at Festival—a weekend of activities that brings all that Vegas has to offer to LGBTQ visitors and locals. Kick off the weekend at The Stratosphere, experience Zip Line experiences, Chef's Table excursions, and wrap up at Revo Sundays.

<http://festivallv.com>

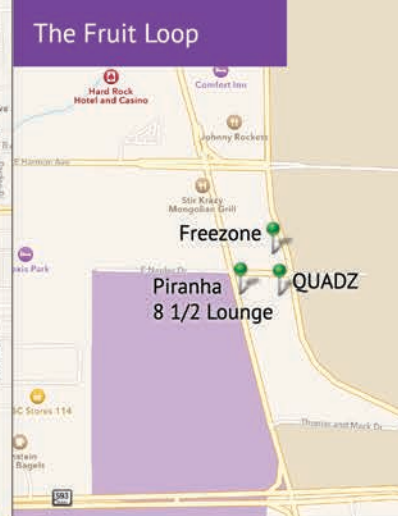
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The Fruit Loop



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GAY GUIDE.COM

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

Temptation
Sundays @
Luxor Pool



Revo Sundays
Inside The Mirage



Altitude Fridays
Festival Opening Party
The Stratosphere

Xposed! @
Tropicana

Equalibrium

Liaison
Inside Bally's

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REVO
sundays



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TUESDAYS



festival

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and No Cover with Guest List

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Friday Evening at the top of
the Stratosphere
7-10PM

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

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REVO
sundays

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- REVO Sundays at Revolution Lounge inside Mirage Hotel
- Get on my Guest List
bit.ly/RevovIPGarrett
- John Miller's Sunday Brunch Group
- Join the Summerlin Gays Group
- Rehab at Hard Rock Hotel
- Get on my Guest List
bit.ly/RehabVIP
- Temptation Sundays at Luxor Pool
- Service Industry Night at Flex Lounge
- Amazing Drag Review at Charlie's
- Broadway Open Mic Night at Onyx Theater
- BBQ at Blue Moon Resort

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- Mondays Dark at Hard Rock Hotel (3rd Monday)
- Martini Mondays at Flex Lounge
- Liquor Bust at Spotlight Lounge
- Karaoke at Charlie's Las Vegas
- S.I.N. Mondays at The Garage
- Pigs on Broadway Video Night with Kitty Litter at Fun Hog Ranch
- Volleyball Social BBQ @ Sunset Park

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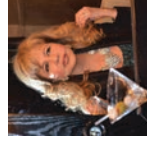
- Social Tuesdays
- Drag Queen Bingo at Charlie's
- Karaoke Night at FreeZone
- Trashy Tuesdays at Hawk's Gym

- PRIDE Family Bingo at The Center (1st Wednesday)
- Karaoke Wednesdays at Flex Lounge
- Skin Mens' Underwear Night at Charlie's
- Game Night at FreeZone
- Wild Wednesdays with India Ferrah at Piranha Nightclub
- #WomanCrushWednesdays at Stratosphere

Sundays



Pia Zadora returns to Piero's in September with her new Pia Reloaded show.



Mondays

Saturdays

- Liaison Nightclub at Bally's
- Get on my Guest List
bit.ly/LiaisonVIPGarrett
- Xposed! Pool Party at Tropicana
- Rehab at Hard Rock Hotel
- Get on my Guest List
bit.ly/RehabVIP
- Goddess with India Ferrah at Piranha
- Ladies Q Social at Lady Sylvia's (Every 2nd Saturday)
- Drag Madness at FreeZone
- Sin City Sisters Fundraiser at Fun Hog (3rd Saturday)
- Volleyball/BBQ Social at Sunset Park

Tuesdays

Fridays

- Altitude Fridays at Stratosphere
- Liaison Nightclub at Bally's
- Get on my Guest List
bit.ly/LiaisonVIPGarrett
- Stripper Circus at Share Nightclub
- Dance Party at Flex Lounge
- F*ck It Fridays at Piranha Nightclub
- Drag Madness at FreeZone



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Wednesdays

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- The Grand Tearoom Drag Show at Share Nightclub
- Swallow Thursdays with J.Son at Share Nightclub
- Boys Night at FreeZone
- Tat Thursdays at Entourage
- Karaoke at The Phoenix
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Maintaining Your Summer Skin, the Natural Way!



by Maya Davis

My favorite season is finally here, summer! Beach trips, tropical drinks and BBQ are a few things I love most about summer. What I don't love is battling my skin. Sweat and pore-clogging sunscreen can turn that summer glow into an 'oh hell no.' There are tons of fancy products out there to help keep yourself fresh-faced but I like to keep it simple and natural. Normally a natural-ingredient based product tends to be gentler on skin, but if you have very sensitive skin please try out any product on a test area first. Below I'll list some favorite concoctions and tips that can help maintain a sun-kissed look.



1 Say No To Nuts

Nuts are great sources of protein, vitamins and a bunch of other cool stuff. Their shells, not so much. Crushed shells and seeds are popular ingredients in natural facial scrubs but should be put back on the shelf. These shell pieces can make micro-tears in the skin and irritate your face. The better option is to find scrubs that use jojoba beads. Jojoba beads are made from jojoba oil esters and are 100% biodegradable. They are completely round, unlike shell fragments, and gently exfoliate the skin. For those with nut allergies this is a great alternative. The beads can also be purchased wholesale online if you want to add them to your favorite cleanser or soap.



Maya Davis is a writer currently living in the Philadelphia area. She graduated from Rosemont College with a BA in English and Communications. She is usually reading something thought provoking or laughing at the latest memes. You can find her opinions on geek culture at fanbros.com.

2 Oil Cleansing Method

Oil and cleansing? Yes, it sounds strange but hear me out. When you clean off a grill what surprisingly gets off a lot of grease? Oil! So why not apply the same principle to your face? The oil cleansing method operates under the fact that oil attracts oil. This method of cleansing might not be what you commit to all the time, but if you ever feel super greasy it's a great way to get rid of that shine. Oils that many people use can be found in your grocery store. Olive, sunflower, safflower, grape seed and jojoba are very popular. Each oil has its own benefits and properties so make sure to do some research before diving in. If you'd rather not cut into your grocery budget, there are pre-

formulated face cleansing oils on the market. Grab the oil of choice, pour 1-2 teaspoons into your hands, rub together and apply to your face with your fingertips. After a few seconds you may feel a gritty texture. This is normally due to deposits being loosened in the skin by the oil. After 30 seconds, take a damp washcloth and gently rub off the oil. Look at the cloth, you might be surprised at what it picked up! After wiping your face you can apply toner and moisturizer. If you still want that squeaky clean feeling, you can follow up with your favorite cleanser. Side-note, oil is a great makeup remover. Pour some on a cotton pad and wipe away. Oil is also great as a pre-shave treatment. Put a few drops on your fingers, rub into area that needs shaving and then apply your shaving cream.

3 Rosewater and glycerin

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern? No, rosewater and glycerin! Poor English major joke aside, rosewater and glycerin is one of my favorite summer moisturizers. Lathering on lotion and sunblock can make our skin feel heavy and greasy.

This moisturizer is light, refreshing and easy to make. Rosewater and glycerin can be purchased online or at a health food store. If you are vegetarian, make sure to get food-grade vegetable glycerin. Rosewater can also be made in your kitchen if you can't find any locally. Rosewater is gentle and touts antioxidant and moisturizing properties. Glycerin is a humectant, meaning it draws in moisture from its environment. It is important to mix these with at least a 1:1 ratio. If there is too much glycerin it will draw water away from your skin instead of towards it, so make sure there are equal parts or more rosewater than glycerin. Start with 3-5 oz of each liquid and mix in a spray bottle. Close your eyes and spray onto your face and let air dry. The rose fragrance isn't very strong but pleasant. This can be used after a dip at the beach or pool, or a mid-day pick me up.

These are just a few of my natural skincare tips. I hope you learned something new and will try something different in your skincare routine. Have a safe and sun-kissed summer!

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Q Style

Bodypaint by Skin City in their Las Vegas studio
www.SkinCityBodyPainting.com

Makeup: Letty Lopez
Hair: Liz Gopwani

Skin City is proud to use MAC Cosmetics

Bodypaint Artists:
Robin Slonina
Jessica Westergom
Natalie Tremayne
Nicole Smolenyak
Natasha Lozano
Jolene Williams

Models:
Carolin Feigs
Kat Day
Lora Kelsey
Chantell Adams
Alexis Frecsko

Photographer:
Steven Horlock





LIGHTS , CAMERA, ACTION!

How does it feel when a dream comes true? Ask Robin Slonina, owner of Las Vegas' very own Skin City Body Painting, the largest body painting company in the country - in operation right here in the City of Sin since 2006. Slonina recently saw almost 5 years of twists and turns, plus hard work and stubborn faith finally come to fruition as her passion project - the TV show SKIN WARS - premieres on GSN Wednesday August 6, at 9:00pm ET/PT (8pm CT).

Slonina made Vegas her home almost 10 years ago, when she met her husband Jimmy Slonina - then performing in the aquatic spectacle Le Reve at the Wynn. Fully embracing her adopted city, she started Skin City Body Painting, growing her business from a one-woman operation with bodypaint equipment stored in her garage, to a world famous Vegas institution, with a thriving studio space in the heart of the Vegas Arts District. She now employs scores of artists, circus entertainers and models and can handle jobs of any size - from a one-on-one with private clients making their bodypaint fantasies come true, to huge events for distinguished corporate clients, to swingers parties at the Palms.

After a few false starts with other productions, Slonina teamed up with Michael Leavitt Productions to pitch a bodypaint competition show, "a Project Runway for body paint", to Hollywood. The Game Show Network believed in their vision and took the show to the next level, attracting RuPaul Charles and Rebecca Romijn to the project.

Rebecca Romijn will serve as the host of SKIN WARS. This is a natural fit, as she was the first model ever to be body-painted for Sports Illustrated's Swimsuit issue. One year later she made her unforgettable big-screen debut as the blue body-painted "Mystique" in X-Men, where she spent over 6 hours in the makeup chair before each shooting day. Legendary entertainer RuPaul and body painting rock star Craig Tracy (from New Orleans) and Slonina will serve as judges.

"We are honored to have this stellar line-up of eye-popping talent for SKIN WARS, a series that will look like no other on television," said Amy Introcaso-Davis, Executive Vice President, Programming and Development, GSN. "Host Rebecca Romijn has an insider's understanding of this fascinating world and we are thrilled that the master of transformation RuPaul will join body painting aficionados Craig Tracy and Robin Slonina on the judging panel."

Skin City Body Painting is celebrating Vegas-style with a huge premier bash at the new Inspire Theater downtown. The festivities will include a mini-Elvis, showgirls, a temporary tattoo stand (so guests can get painted), a photo booth - and of course LOTS & LOTS of bodypainted models! Joining Slonina at the Premier Party will be 2 contestants from the show, Felle from Detroit MI and Gearboxxx - another Vegas local. They will be painting live at the party so guests can get up close and see their amazing craft first hand. Not to be missed!











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Funding for this publication was made possible (in part) through a grant from the Federal Department of Health and Human Services HIV AIDS Bureau and Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act.

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Top of The World @The Stratosphere

Revolving. The sun is setting, lending the restaurant a magical amber-peach glow that filmmakers love. Hey! Isn't that Old Vegas down there? Oh! I can see the Smith Center! Revolving. That's Paradise Road. There is Mount Charleston, and... WAIT! Did someone just jump off the building?!? Revolving. The sun has gone down behind the mountains and the city's lights are coming alive. Wow! Look at The Strip! Las Vegas sure looks pretty from the Top Of The World. Top Of The World is a sleek, yet lovely restaurant perched more than 800 feet above street level in the Stratosphere Tower. Immaculate white tablecloths shine brightly against the deep, almost cobalt blue of the carpet and upholstery, and wood accents can be found on the railings between levels. That's really all there is to the decor. The rest is...well...the view! Floor-to-ceiling, angled windows highlight the city from sidewalk to sky. The restaurant revolves 360 degrees every 80 minutes, providing diners with spectacular views of the Las

Vegas valley. Happily, the food at Top Of The World is as spectacular as the surrounding scenery! We were led to our table on the outer edge of the revolving platform and given our menus. I chose to begin my meal with a **Blue-Tini** - a sweet, refreshing mixture of blueberry vodka, fresh blueberry juice, sweet and sour mix, and Sprite. As we studied the list of appetizers, the chef informed us that he would send out a few of his own choices for us to try as well. To that end, before we had even ordered, we were treated to a solid, delicious *amuse-bouche* of **Roasted Kurobuta Pork Belly With Chimichurri** - 3 pieces of pork belly, crispy on top, moist and juicy beneath the skin. The belly was topped with a bright, herbal chimichurri sauce, and a bit of sautéed asparagus with garlic and ginger, all sitting on a bed of arborio rice with cilantro, aji amarillo, and lime powder. A subtly spicy orange gastrique lent a touch of sweetness. With so many components, however, the



careful balance of flavors still allowed the pork to be the star of the dish. From there, we basically ate our way through most of the appetizers! The **Pan Seared Foie Gras with Cocoa Nib Fleur De Sel** was wonderfully buttery with an apple-cranberry chutney complementing the rich taste of the liver, while the balsamic reduction added a hint of acidity. The **Seared Jumbo Lump Crab Cake** was satisfying and hearty, with some green papaya kimchee for crunch and the ponzu Peppadew aioli adding just the right amount of heat. The **Lobster Bisque** was a perfect interpretation of a classic - smooth and creamy with just a hint of nuttiness at the back of the palate. A must-try! **The**

Caesar Salad with Parmesan Reggiano was the only slight misstep, as I felt it needed more garlic and more of a presence from the anchovy. The addition of a tiny dish of beautiful marinated white anchovies made the

Caesar much more regal!

Finally, the **Shrimp and Lobster Cocktail**

was something of a revelation! No mere handful of chilled shrimp around a dish of cocktail sauce, this was three large Gulf prawns arranged around a Canadian lobster tail medallion,

accompanied by a South of the Border cocktail sauce - tomato,

jalapeño, avocado, onion, cilantro, oregano, and lime juice, which gave the dish the flavors of a great ceviche. The freshness of the seafood and the bright, punchy flavors of the sauce combined for another beautifully balanced bite! Our main courses had yet to arrive, but the chef felt we just HAD to try the

Large Mexican Prawns, New England Scallops & Lobster "A La Plancha". A veritable seafood lover's dream, the dish consisted of sweet lobster meat cooked on a flattop grill, perfectly sautéed prawns, and expertly seared scallops all topped with a spicy Moorish tomato sauce and a dash of chive oil, which added subtle layers of flavor. For our mains, I had chosen the **12oz. Grass Fed Australian Wagyu Skirt Steak with Asian Chimichurri**. Served with caramelized onions and some excellent green beans, the tender steak brought to mind the texture of a great brisket, while the ginger and lemongrass in the chimichurri gave the flavorful cut of beef a nice kick of Asian spice. My friend had ordered the **Colorado Rack of Lamb with Moroccan Flavors**, which was paired with a French lentil

and quinoa salad. The lamb was done to a perfect pink and was juicy and tender, its flavor holding up nicely against the rasal hanout, sweet paprika, and cumin that I believe I detected in the tomato-based sauce and the strong, pungent quinoa salad. Now, it's either a cruel joke, brilliant marketing, or most likely a combination of the two, that the dessert cart should be positioned on the stationary rim between dining floor and window. As the restaurant revolved, diners were constantly confronted with the sweets they'd be tempted by at meal's end. My friend chose the **Chocolate Lover's Dream**: a dark chocolate teardrop-shaped shell wrapped around a moist chocolate cake, Grand Marnier, and a semi-sweet chocolate mousse - much like a blackout cake, but elevated by the layers of differing flavors and textures. Very decadent! I decided on the **Bananas Foster in a Florentine Box** - artisanal vanilla ice cream with a Foster Sauce made with Myers Rum and fresh banana - the hot, gooey, caramelized bananas, rum sauce and rich, melty ice cream, were all presented in an edible caramel almond box. The addition of two pulled sugar "spoons" with which to eat the dessert, made this one of the best Bananas Fosters I've tried! There is much to do at the top of the Stratosphere Tower, including cocktails at Air Bar, which hosts a weekly LGBTQ mixer called Altitude Fridays, and the Observation Deck, where you'll find four thrill rides, including SkyJump: brave souls hooking up to a high-tensile steel cable called a "descender" and jumping off the deck for a high speed, controlled fall all the way down! It should come as no secret that the sublime food we experienced at Top Of The World measured up not only to the panoramic views, but to the heart-pounding rides found a few levels up. In a word, our meal had been **THRILLING!**

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TIPS FOR TANNING

by Mackenzie Claude

I know there is a big push to get people into tanning salons, but I do prefer the old-fashioned style tanning which is outdoors by the pool. So if you are looking for that perfect glow, but don't want to spend big prices at the salon I recommend these tips...

1 Start laying out in the sun for a short duration of time, 3-4 days a week. The key is to build a base tan slowly, without overexposing yourself to the sun and burning. Red is a beautiful color on roses and lobster, but not on your peeling face. Extend the duration of your layout as each week progresses.

2 Try your best to avoid the sun between the hours of 10am-4pm. This is when the sun is at it's hottest and laying out before or after will minimize skin damage. What good is a golden glow on a damaged canvas?

3 Wear sunscreen!!! I personally recommend an SPF of 30 or higher. Trust me, If a woman can still get pregnant using protection, you definitely can still get a tan.

4 Bring a book or music to keep yourself entertained while you layout. Let tanning be a time to relax and catch up on your reading or listen to music & get those creative juices flowing.

5 Shower, lotion and moisturize. After being out in the sun, keep your skin clean and fresh with a shower. Then moisturize after you dry off to help lock in that tan.

These are just my personal tips. Every person's body is different, so let this be a starting point and use what works best for you. See you out by the pool!

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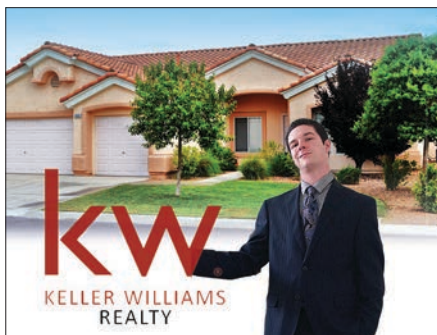
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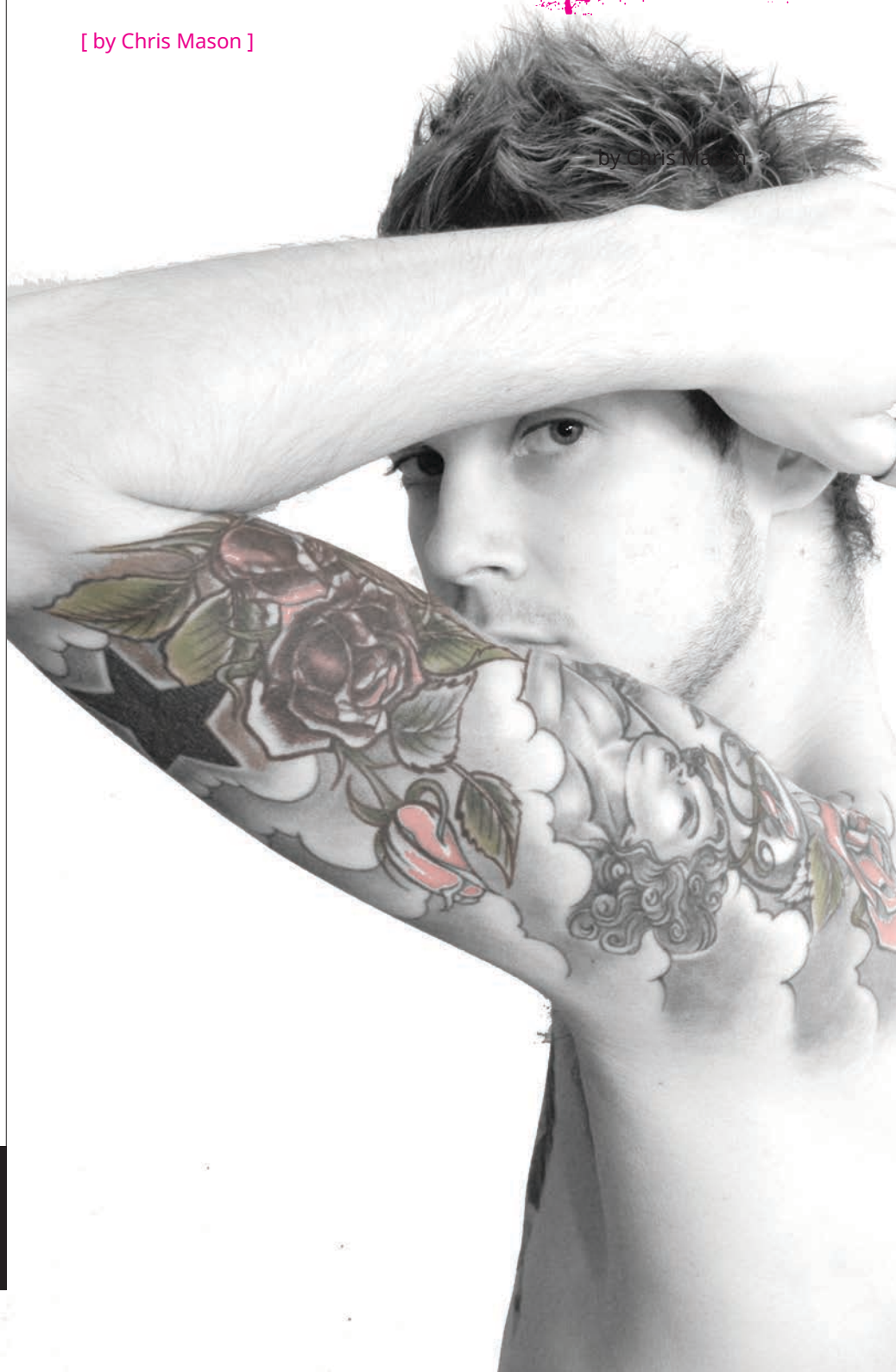
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Tat, Tat, Tatted Up

[by Chris Mason]



by Chris Mason

\$kin issue right? Well let's do it like this. I don't know about you but I am all about ink and the LGBT community is all about it as well. Pretty is pretty...it doesn't matter who you are. We love the ability to express ourselves and tattoos are a very artistic way to do so. As many people, my tattoos tell a story as does my friend Trevor Michael, a visual merchandiser for H&M and a local tattoo enthusiast who is getting marked up every time I turn around and I would be lying to say I wasn't jealous. It is cool to be creative. We need to do this! I can't write this without mentioning Joseph Haefs from Reverent Tattoo who may just be the best tattoo artist in Las Vegas right now. I will just anoint him as the tattoo chef because he is cooking up some fierce tattoos and doesn't show signs of slowing down. The photo with the apron may or may not have inspired that title but either way he has got it now. Joseph Haefs has been tattooing 12+ years in Las Vegas. He has watched the tattoo scene grow and change. As it became more mainstream he steered away from overcharging tourists and rushing through tattoos. He wanted to take his time and put all his love and energy in each tattoo. So two years ago he decided to open his own Tattoo Shop Reverent Tattoo with his lovely wife Michelle Larae. She is very artsy

and business savvy with great customer service and runs the shop while he creates what I can only describe as BEAUTIFUL ART! To set up an appointment you can contact Michelle at 702-330-7475 and check out their website www.reverent.com. There are good shops here and there but I have NEVER seen anything better. HE DOES THE MOST! Joseph is turning Las Vegas tattooing into a complete art show and I LOVE IT! I don't want it to leave anytime soon. With the looks of things it won't be ending. Moving on to another friend of mine Trevor Michael continues to amaze me with all of his new ink. This dude is a tattoo fiend. I spoke with Trevor recently to ask about his background and his inspirations with the work he keeps getting done, so I will just quote him and let him tell his story. GO TREVOR! "I'm 24 originally from New Orleans now living in Las Vegas. I have worked for H&M as a visual merchandiser for 6 years and counting. My tattoos are about conspiracies and mythology. I believe our human history has a past that was forgotten about. I'm open minded and believe in many unanswered questions involving space, afterlife and creatures and many different aspects of the supernatural." Well there you go. If that isn't deep then I don't know what is deep. I appreciate Joseph and Trevor taking their time to give me their stories and their thoughts on the tattoo scene and their inspirations. Tattoos are a form of expression and are becoming much more accepted in day to day life and even in the corporate world. I love it. It is art folks. Let's keep it going!

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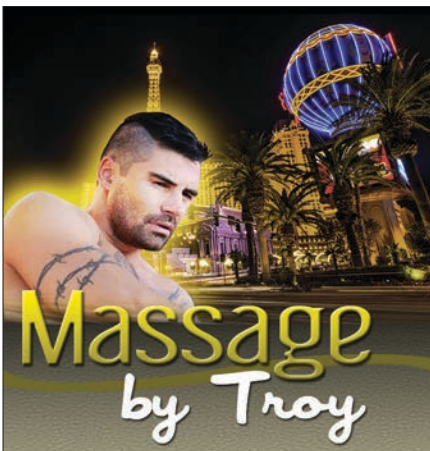
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last word!



Black and white is anything but basic at Las Vegas' signature social event of the year, Aid for AIDS of Nevada's (AFAN) 28th Annual Black & White Party, returning to The Joint at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Las Vegas on Saturday Aug. 23.

What started as a simple backyard gathering in 1986 to collect canned goods for those living with HIV/AIDS, the Black & White Party has grown into a lavish celebration and this year's \$40 general admission ticket price gets you three days of outrageous parties.

On Friday, Aug. 22, Liaison Nightclub at Bally's will host the official kickoff party with complimentary admission for all Black & White ticket holders. With a high-end atmosphere, sexy live performance pieces and hot DJs, Liaison has quickly become the place to see and be seen, recently throwing Lance Bass' release party for his new single.

Miles, the glamazon dancers from Jubilee!, Chase Brown, Lorena Peril and more. Actor, comedian and breakout star of reality TV show "RuPaul's Drag Race" Shangela (D.J. Pierce) and self-proclaimed "Debutantess of the South" will also make a special appearance.

After the party is the after party and this year's official after party starts at 1 a.m. at Piranha Nightclub located in the nearby Fruit Loop.

The following day, AFAN will bring the legendary afternoon party T-Dance tradition and a staple of gay culture worldwide to Las Vegas on Sunday, Aug. 24 at Wynn Las Vegas' Encore Beach Club with world famous DJ Diplo on the decks. Your Black & White Party wristband gets you complimentary admission, one free cocktail and access to a special VIP cabana area.

AFAN BY THE NUMBERS

30 - years AFAN has served the community

100 - percent of funds raised that stay in Southern Nevada to help those in need living with HIV/AIDS

81.46 - cents of every dollar donated to AFAN goes toward client services

14,000 - hours of case management

16,608 - services provided to AFAN clients including medical case management, medical financial assistance, transportation, nutrition counseling, education, food assistance and housing services

15,000 - supplements issued by our registered dietician for AFAN's clients' health benefit

150 - kids enriched by AFAN's Kids' Campus program

200,000 - dollars distributed for housing and utilities assistance

974 - nutritional services accessed by AFAN clients

200 - grocery vouchers issued for health-related emergency food purchases

135 - educational outreaches

Party with 4,000 of your closest friends dressed head to toe in monochromatic fashion (including leather, balloons, feathers, sequins or only body paint) at the main event on Saturday, Aug. 23 at The Joint from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Upgrade to a \$125 VIP ticket and gain early entry at 8 p.m. so you get first dibs on the food (and booze) from Vegas' top chefs and mixologists including Culinary Dropout, Maggiano's, Pink Taco, 35 Steaks + Martinis, Jamba Juice, Popcorn Girl, Ferraro's, desserts by Aliante Casino + Hotel and Back Bar USA.

Throughout the course of the night, some of the Strip's hottest acts will take to the stage for sizzling performances including those masked hip hoppers Jabbawockeez, Melody Sweets from Absinthe, the diva herself Sky

In celebration of the Black & White Party, Hard Rock is offering a special room rate for out of towners or locals wanting a staycation online at hardrockhotel.com or 800.343.4346 and using the code HAFAN14.

Now in its 30th year of providing support and advocacy, AFAN is Nevada's oldest and largest HIV/AIDS organization. In 2013, more than 4,000 local men, women and children visited the AFAN office to access services including medical case management, transportation, counseling, housing and utility assistance and emergency food vouchers. Last year's event raised more than \$130,000 and AFAN hopes to exceed that number this year.

Every other year, AFAN chooses select community members who have made a significant contribution to the fight against HIV/AIDS and allow them the "right to wear red" at Black & White Party. To celebrate their 30th anniversary, the organization will honor several of their founding members including Senator David Parks, Dr. Mel Pohl, Dr. Jerry Cade, AFAN's first Executive Director Wes Davis, Joe Lamarca and Kevin Kelly.

Since the inception of AFAN, these men have continued the fight against HIV/AIDS throughout their careers, helping to bridge the gap for human rights. Senator Parks currently serves on the Governor's Statewide AIDS Advisory Task Force and Dr. Cade is Director of HIV Services for UMC Hospital, lecturing worldwide on medical research and developing HIV policies for the federal government.

For the complete Black & White Party lineup and to buy tickets, visit afanlv.org.



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LIAISON
LAS VEGAS NIGHTCLUB

KICKOFF PARTY

Friday, August 22 - 10PM
Liaison Night Club



AFAN BLACK & WHITE PARTY

Saturday, August 23
9PM - 1AM (VIP entry at 8PM)
The Joint at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino

Piranha
NIGHTCLUB

AFTER PARTY

Sunday, August 24 - 1AM
Piranha Night Club

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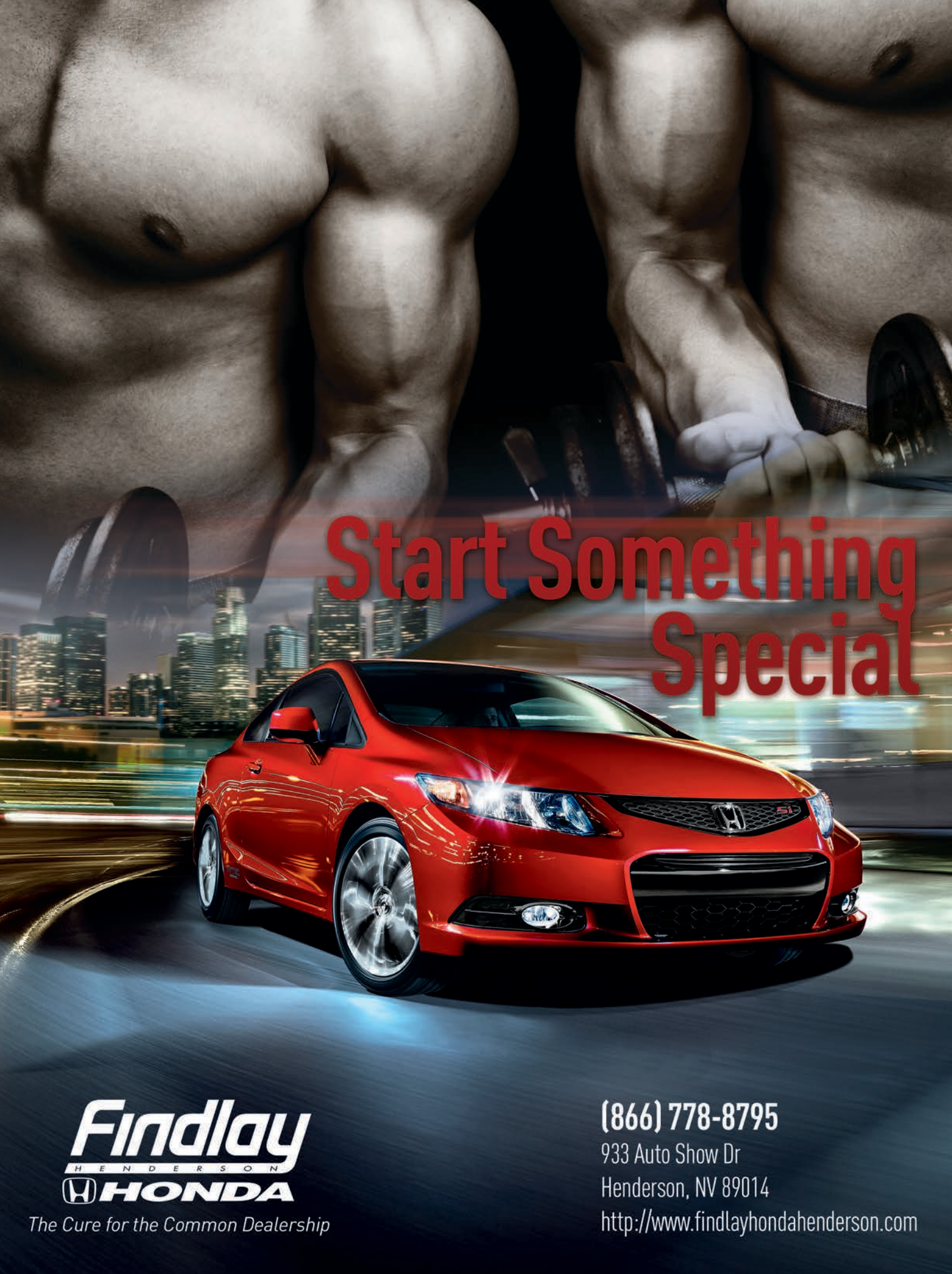
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