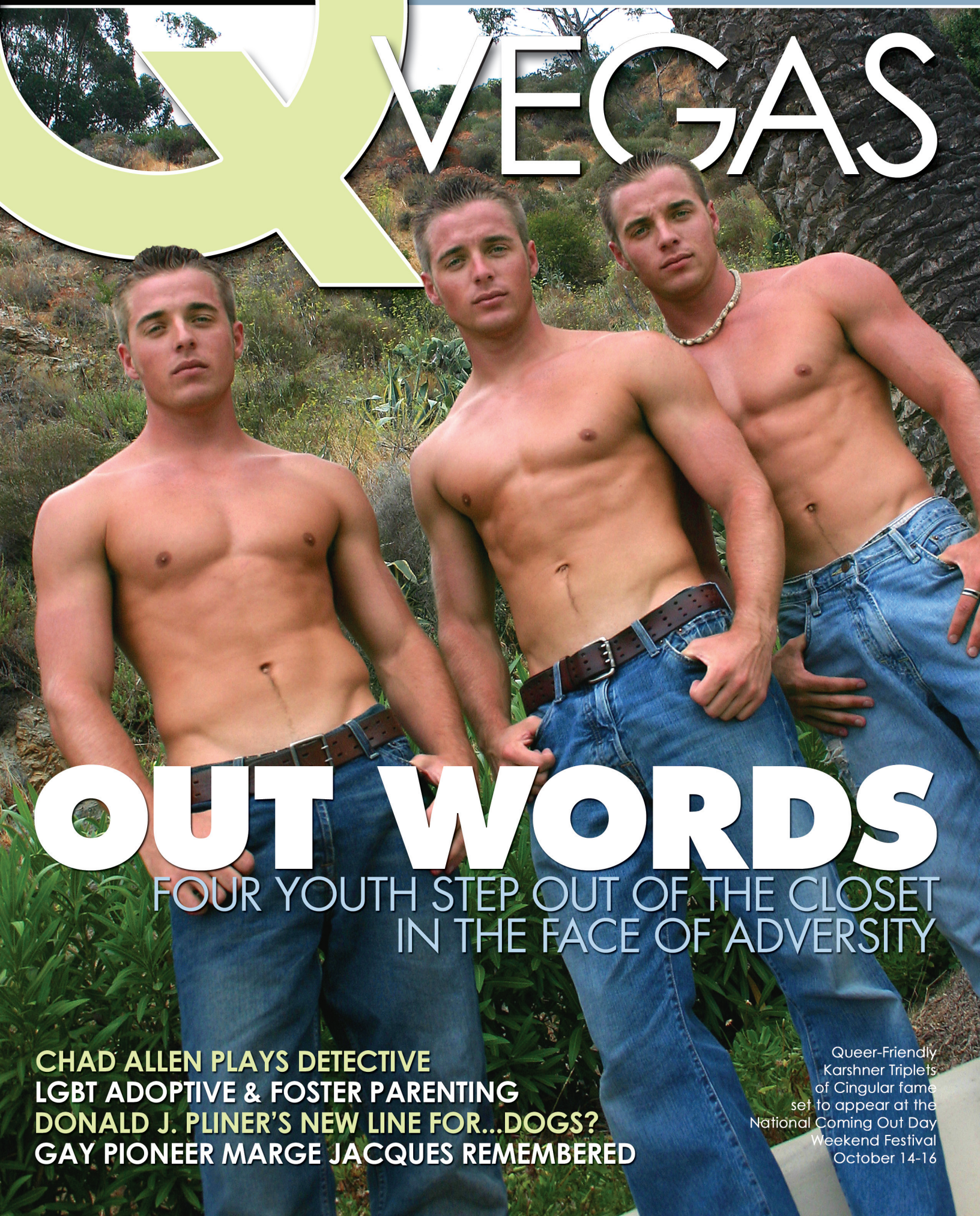
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OUT WORDS

FOUR YOUTH STEP OUT OF THE CLOSET IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

CHAD ALLEN PLAYS DETECTIVE

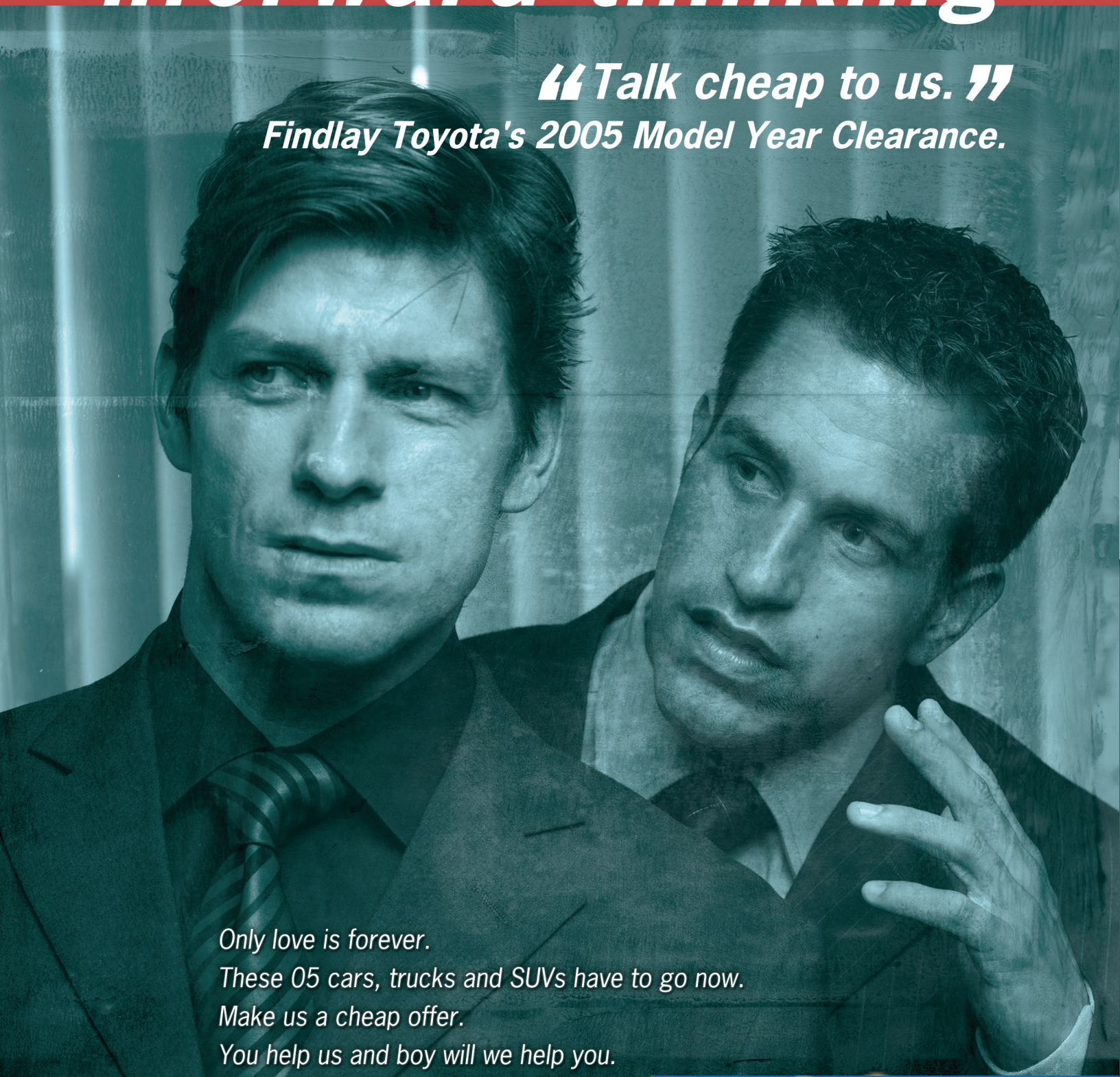
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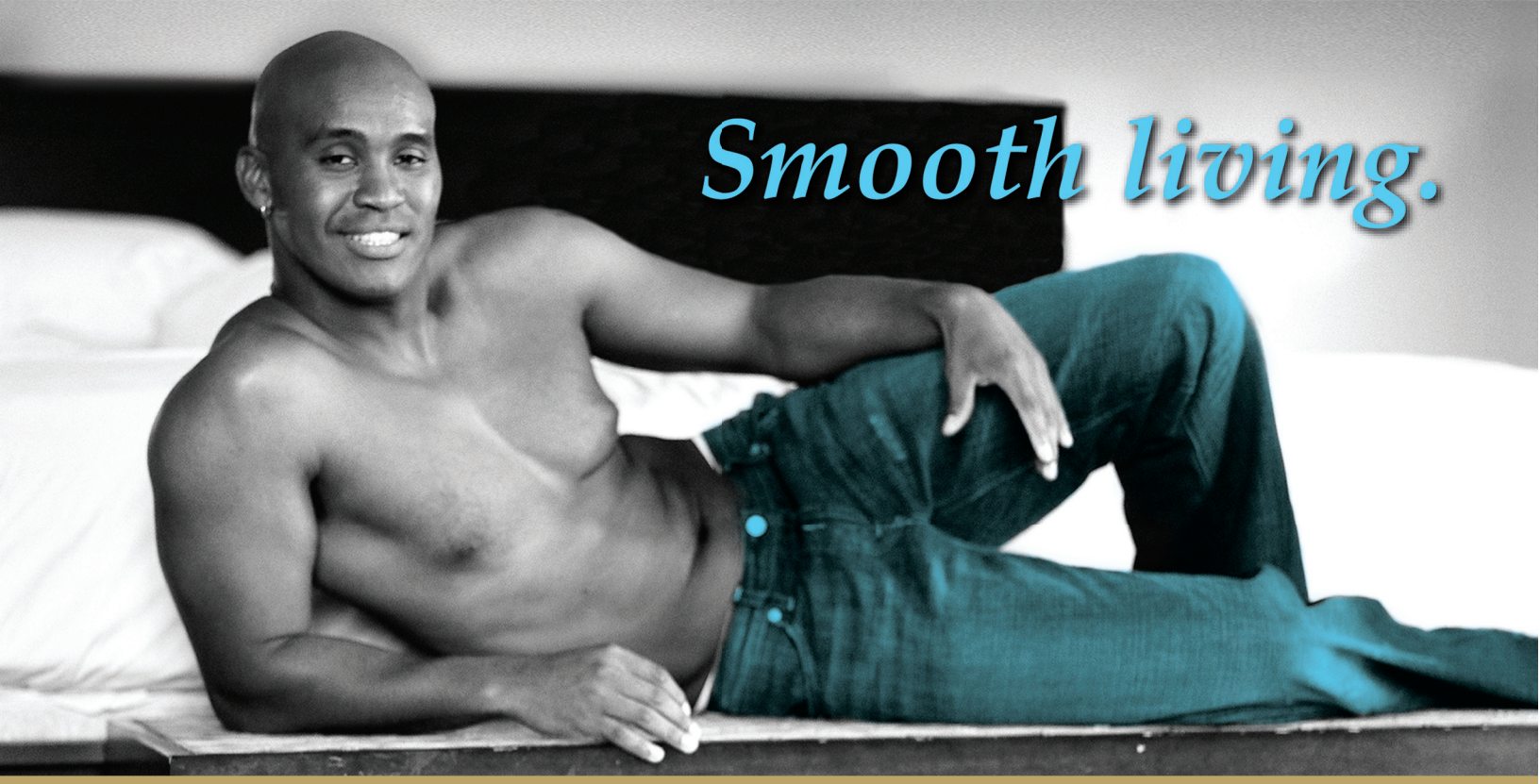
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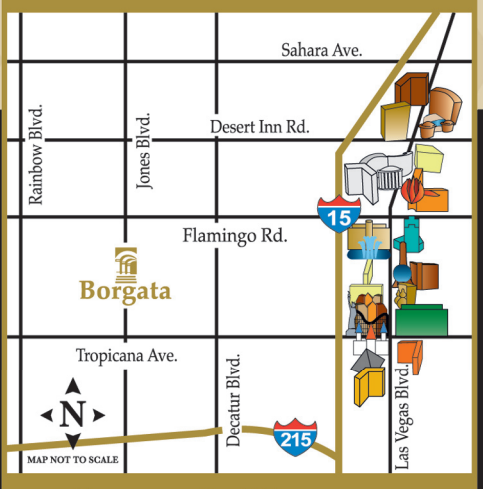


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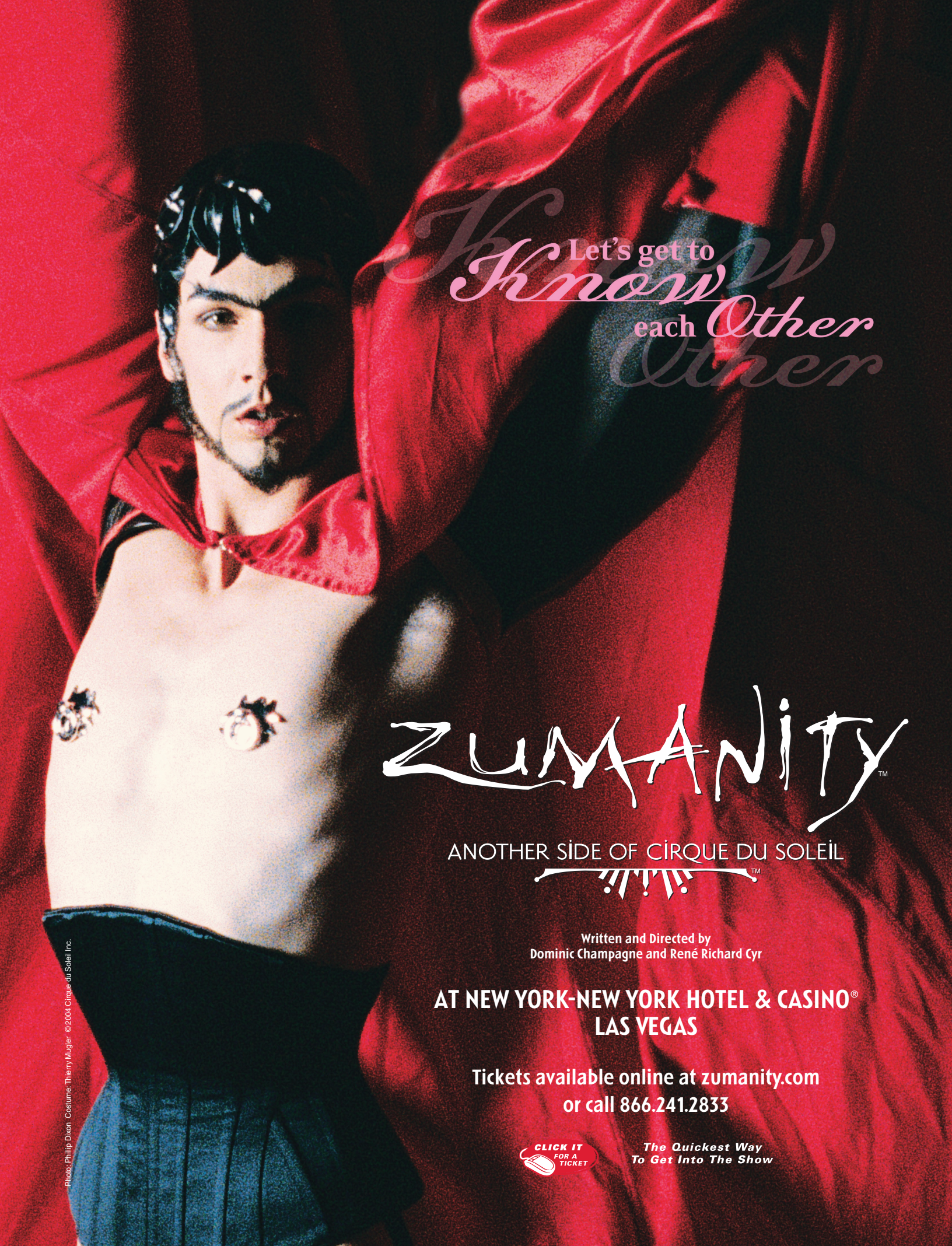
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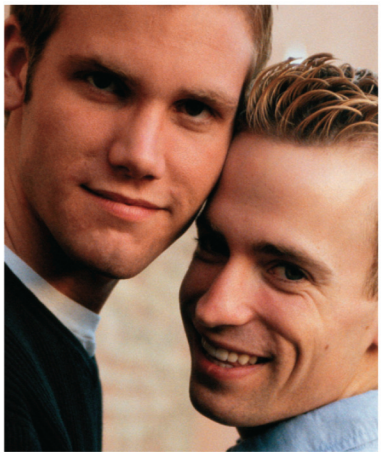
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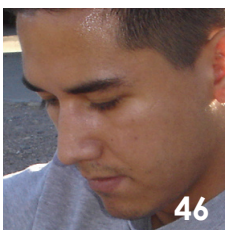
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OCTOBER 2005









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ON THE COVER Models/actors the Karshner Triplets, best remembered from their Cingular Wireless commercial, set to make an appearance at the NCOD Weekend Festival Oct. 14-16. Photograph © 2005 Jason Niedle www.f8foto.com. Cover design by M. Cory Burgess.




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DAVID GUARINO is a media/entertainment reporter based in Chicago. David is best known for his weekly byline, "Eye on the Media," while a Senior Writer for Chicago's *Windy City Times*. Guarino's work has frequently been published in *Bay Area Reporter*, *Watermark*, *OutLook Weekly*, *OutFront Colorado* and *QVegas*. Guarino's fiction has been featured in the *Chicago Magazine*, *What's Uptown*, and can be found in *Off the Racks*, an LGBT anthology.



MARK SHIELDS was appointed Director of the Human Rights Campaign Coming Out Project during the summer of 2005. Charged with rebuilding and re-imagining the Coming Out Project, Shields' early goal for the project is to empower gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and straight supportive people to come out for the first time, and also to encourage everyone who supports LGBT equality to speak openly about it in their daily lives.

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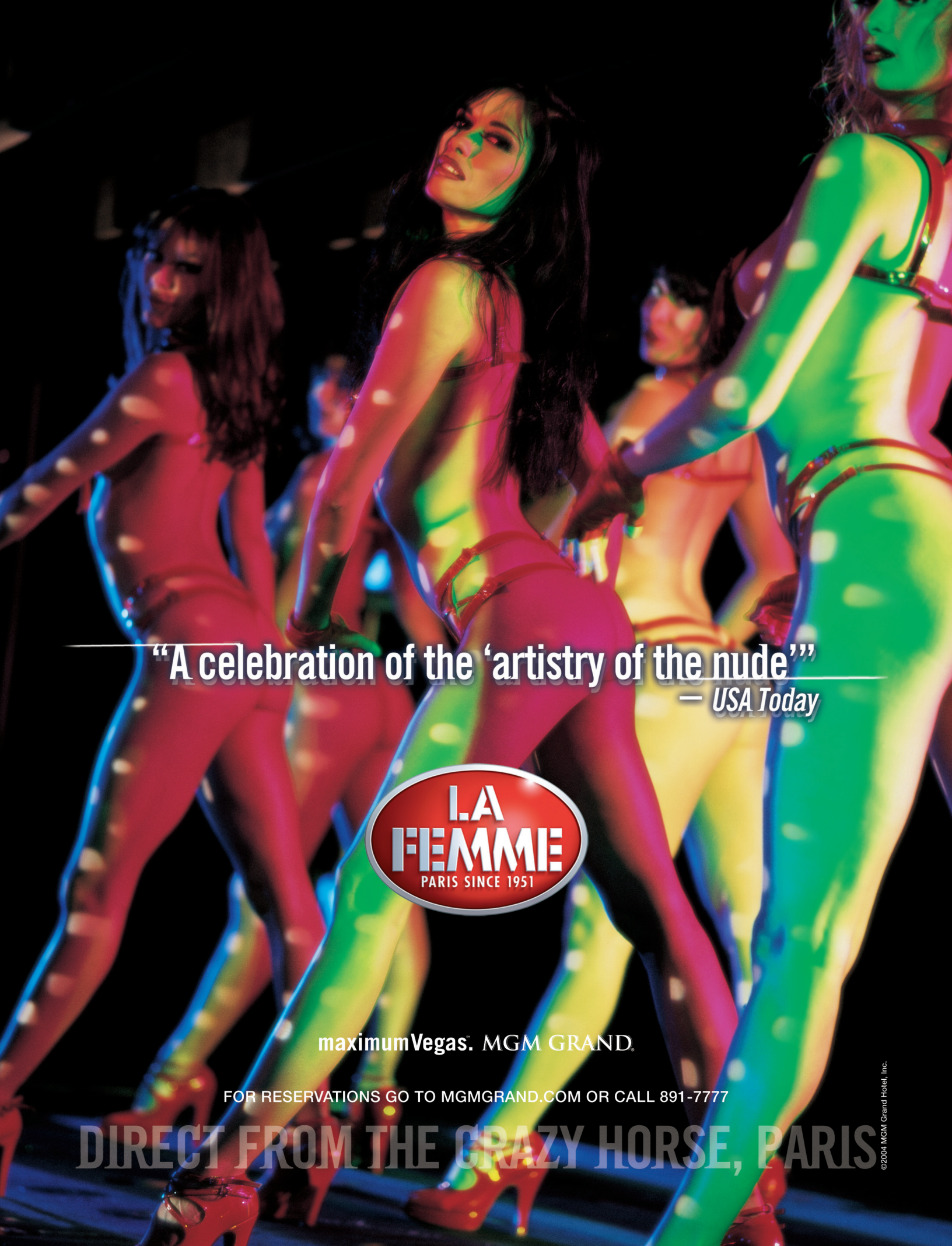
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OUT & ABOUT

Welcome to October's *QVegas*, our Coming Out issue. Well okay, *Q* has always been out, in fact *OUT Las Vegas* is where *Q* comes from. Sorry I'm being cryptic.

Yet again, this month, we celebrate National Coming Out Day at the Fruit Loop. My publisher invented this festival and, together with leading members of the community, put on a small event which, four years later, is now the second biggest LGBT event, after Pride. See our features on pages 30 and 46 for details on what it is all about and why you need to be there.

Thank you for all the wonderful comments we received about our Pets and people issue in September. It seems we struck a chord with all you pet lovers out there. We enjoyed putting that issue together.

While we think about pets, on page 34, our QPeople feature, we show Chris Keller and his partner, Topher, who came to Las Vegas for a small break from the horrors of Louisiana's devastation. Chris Saldaña interviews the guys and tells their story. Those two went through some rough times, and I hope they enjoyed their well deserved break in the desert.

I have been asked to mention that many animals are now homeless in the Gulf region after being flooded out and then abandoned by their fleeing owners. Even though many people struggled to keep their pets, in that kind of emergency hard choices had to be made. Spare some thought and some money and hope that the owners and their cherished pets are all re-united.

As you read this months *QVegas*, take some time to consider how lucky we all are to live in a country where we are able to celebrate our diversity. National Coming Out Day, by its very existence, shows that being oneself needs some kind of special day in tribute. Hopefully one day there will not be any need to come out. A person's sexuality will be held as no more important than their choice of color for their socks. In the meantime come out to the Fruit Loop on Oct. 15 and show the world how proud you are to be you.



Chris Campbell
Managing Editor

LETTER FROM SNAPI'S NEW PREZ

As the former treasurer of SNAPI [Southern Nevada Association of Pride, Inc.], I am truly honored the SNAPI Board has elected me as their president for the new SNAPI year. We have already identified when the week Pride will occur — the week preceding Mother's Day (May 14). This has been the historical time for Pride in Las Vegas, but we had to move it last year due to the Las Vegas Centennial Celebration. By the time this article hits the street, we will have decided on the location of Pride; either the Sports Event Center or Sunset Park. Either way, I'm certain it will best the best Pride yet.

I am proud to acknowledge the rest of the Pride Board for 2005-2006:

Ernie Yuen – Vice-President
Bob Napierala – Treasurer
Keith Groteluschen – Secretary
Rene Perez – Parliamentarian
Daniel Grevich – Director
Marcus Grissom - Director
Donna Edwards - Director
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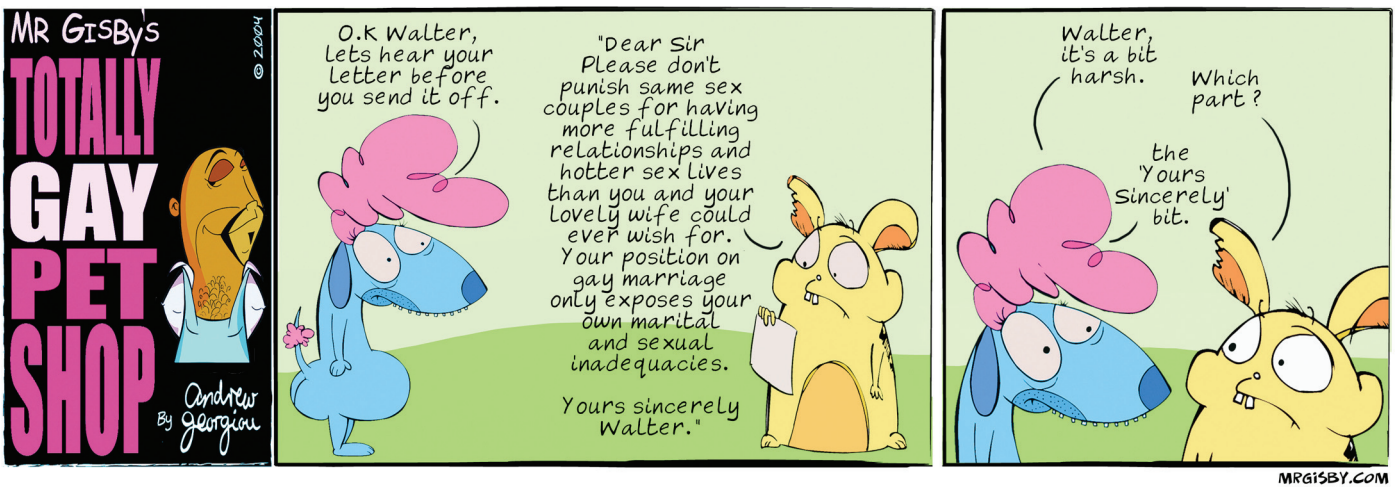
As any of the board members can attest, Pride is a great organization to belong to, but a definite workout. We are always looking for motivated people to join our board who can attend meetings twice a month and provide support at our various fund-raising and outreach functions. Please contact us at www.LasVegasPride.org for information and meeting locations and times.

We always look forward to community input concerning the Pride Festival, as this is *your* event, so don't be shy and give us your view!

Sincerely,
John Brumley
President, SNAPI

We at QVegas *want to congratulate John Brumley on his election as SNAPI President. We are looking forward to working with you and building on SNAPI's success.*

To James Healey who has stepped down we have only two things to say Awesome and Thank You.



NOTABLE QUOTABLE

"This is the second time in a row [9/11] that God has invoked a disaster shortly before lesbian Ellen Degeneres hosted the Emmy Awards. America is waiting for her to apologize for the death and destruction that her sexual deviance has brought onto this great nation."

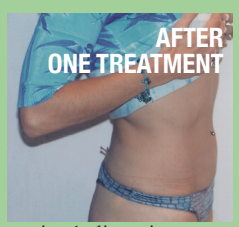
—This is the second time Pat Robertson (a man whose intelligence is such that he has nothing to fear from decapitation),has featured in our Notable Quotable for his rantings.

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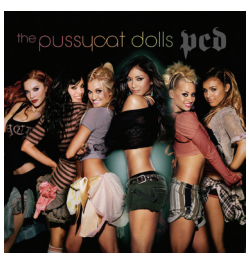
Pussycat Dolls are the newest brand of girl power. With their cheeky lyrics, sexy poses and irresistible urban jams, Pussycat Dolls favor style over substance. But that's okay. At least these ladies know how to bring it in a way that is clever and entertaining. The group's debut *PCD* follows in the slipstream of their global hit "Don't Cha" that is topping the charts from Turkey to Timbuktu. Created by many different songwriters and producers, the album stays on pace with a couple of ballads and the slick, urban-style dance pop that turned Jennifer Lopez and Beyonce into superstars. Interesting track choices are the covers of Donna Summer's "Hot Stuff" and Soft Cell's gay classic "Tainted Love" that are a perfect fit for the girls' burlesque stage shows. Fronted by the talented vocalist Nicole Scherzinger, the rest of the Dolls troupe have no major vocal duties but are an instrumental part of the group's stage concept. While *PCD* will mostly count as a novelty album of a pop phenomenon, the album exceeds expectations and will surely surprise many.

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LINDA PERRY

When you have become a hot shot producer you can afford to sit back and put out some older stuff from the days when you were a singer. Ten years after recording *In Flight*, Linda Perry has decided to re-release the record. Most people will know Perry from her songwriting work for Christina Aguilera, Pink, Fischerspooner, Kelly Osbourne and Gwen Stefani. Pop celebrities flock to Perry's studio to give their music a rocky, in-your-face edge. Perry developed her straight-up songwriting style in the coffee house circuit before joining the Four Non Blondes in 1990. The group had a global hit with the anthemic "What's Going On." After the band split, Perry fell back into obscurity to emerge as a leading force behind the soundboards. *In Flight* was written and recorded in 1995, and represents some of Perry's finest work. Endearing and raw, this pop rock effort will leave you both breathless and invigorated.

Linda Perry • *In Flight* • Kill Rock Stars/Custard • Available October 11







DEPECHE MODE

British techno-rockers Depeche Mode return this month with their eleventh studio album *Playing The Angel*, the follow-up to 2001's critically-acclaimed *Exciter*. The trio has developed a reputation for their dark songwriting, but this new disc serves up a lighter fare with faster-paced tunes that are more hooky than their melancholic past. Martin Gore's lyrics still examine the most obscure parts of human relationships, but after 25 years of channeling pain and suffering, Gore has found a milder tone to express some of the misery (reflected in cryptic songtitles like "Suffer Well"). Now happily married, Gore probably has been inspired to include flurries of optimism in his songs, such as demonstrated on the clubby single "Precious." But regardless of its brighter tones this is a quintessential Depeche Mode record that shows the band still has their finger on the (cyber) pulse with plenty of deep basslines and hi-tech sound effects. Depeche Mode will play at The Joint on November 26.

Depeche Mode • *Playing The Angel* • Siren/Reprise • Available October 18

ARMIN VAN BUUREN

Armin van Buuren ranks as one of the most popular DJs in the world. On his second artist album, *Shivers*, the Dutchman combines his signature trance mixes with more evolved songwriting that includes traditional song formats with vocals. The disc features a variety of guest vocalists and producers including pianist and composer Jan Vayne, former Genesis (post-Phil Collins) singer Ray Wilson and Justine Suissa, who collaborated with Armin on his Billboard Dance hit single from 2004, "Burned With Desire." *Shivers* was recorded over the last two years primarily in Amsterdam, San Francisco (with Gabriel & Dresden), Miami (with Markus Schulz and Mic Burns) and New York (with Nadia Ali of iio). The first single from *Shivers* is the title track and it's already making its mark on the international trance scene. Now that Armin has chosen to go after the mainstream dance market, his hard-core trance fans might be disappointed by this album, but *Shivers* will surely make him plenty of new fans.

Armin van Buuren • *Shivers* • Ultra Records • Available Now

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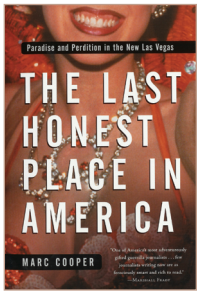
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THE LAST HONEST PLACE IN AMERICA



There's no doubt that Marc Cooper truly *gets* Vegas. His new book, *The Last Honest Place in America*, accurately captures the essence of Vegas, namely that the good life is open and available to all, at least as long as your credit limit holds out. Vegas is pure artifice, unencumbered by culture, authenticity, community or any of those other pesky things that get in the way of the almighty dollar. But Cooper's book goes beyond mere greed to look at what makes Vegas tick. Along the way we meet Andrea Lee Hackett, who's working to unionize the city's 25,000 strippers, and we spend some quality time with Mayor Goodman, former mob lawyer with an insatiable appetite for publicity. Cooper also retraces the history of Vegas, from its founding as a Mormon settlement through the early mob years to the current takeover by corporate mega-resorts. Along the way, he mourns the lost glamour of old Vegas, it's stylish jetsetters in evening gowns and smoking jackets replaced by paunchy Midwestern tourists sporting fanny packs. A riveting read, Cooper's fascination with Vegas draws the reader in, revealing the inner workings of America's most honest city. His love affair with the city doesn't blind him to the multitude of problems plaguing Vegas, and he examines them with a critical eye, offering them up in contrast to the city's glamorous persona. There's a world beyond the pirate ships and Eiffel Tower replicas, and Cooper is the perfect guide.

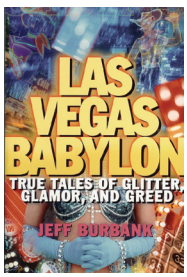
By Marc Cooper • Available now from Nation Books ▪ ISBN 1560256648

THE UNDERGROUND GUIDE TO LAS VEGAS

Las Vegas is America's most popular vacation destination, and there are multitudes of travel guides covering the city. But The Underground Guide to Las Vegas offers a different view of the city. There's no mention of pricey Strip hotels or $150 per seat production shows, rather readers are offered an insider's view of Vegas, the "real" Vegas as lived by the nearly 1.5 million residents. Compiled by former City Life editor Jarret Keene, the book distills all of the alt-weekly's recommendations into a handy pocket-sized guide. There's the usual sections on dining and transportation as well as extensive listings of the alternative music scene and the commercial sex industry. Clearly geared towards the under 30 crowd, the book is a must-read for the newly-arrived hipster. And while I can't imagine the typical tourist heading for the mosh pit at the Double Down Saloon, we locals appreciate a good time at a great price.

Edited by Jarret Keene • Available now from Manic Press • ISBN #0916397998

LAS VEGAS BABYLON



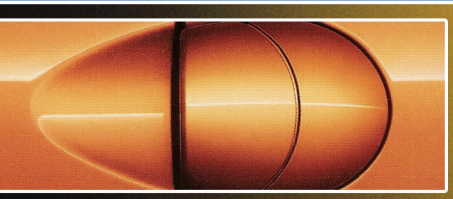
That Las Vegas was built of a foundation of organized crime, corruption and vice comes as no surprise to anyone with a passing knowledge of Vegas history. It's this disreputable history that Jeff Burbank chronicles in Las Vegas Babylon. Divided into seven sections, Burbank covers the Mob's role in the city's early development through to the recent G-Sting corruption scandal. There's also assorted tales of celebrities behaving badly and political infighting and corruption, just the sort of things you'd expect from Sin City. But for all of its purported tales of scandal and debauchery, Las Vegas Babylon is little more than a collection of news clippings spanning 100 years. There are no new insights to be gained nor any context for the events reported. Chances are, if you have an interest in Vegas history, you already know everything in this book. If not, there are far better books out there.

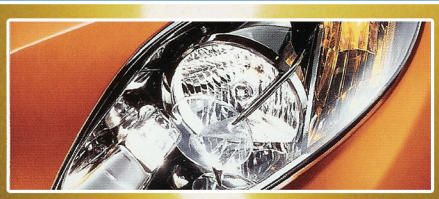
By Jeff Burbank • Available now from M. Evans and Co. • ISBN #1590770900

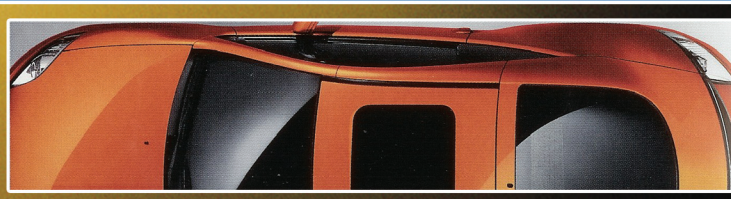
STRIPPED

It's the multitude of strip clubs that put the sin in Sin City, and its those strips clubs that Brent Jordan has called home for the past 20 years. A veteran bouncer at Cheetah's in Las Vegas, Jordan lays bare the often ugly reality behind the dazzling lights and beautiful bodies. He recounts tales of political corruption, racism and random violence while waxing philosophical about the feminist aspects of stripping and his own penchant for violence. The book, while well written and authentic, could use a good editor to pull everything together into a cohesive storyline. But a little choppiness doesn't stand in the way of great stories about a titillating subject.

By Brent Jordan • Available now from Satsu Multimedia Press • ISBN #0970344120







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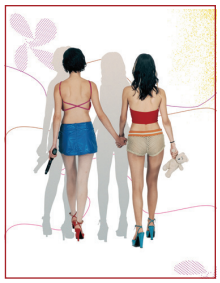
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HARDCORE



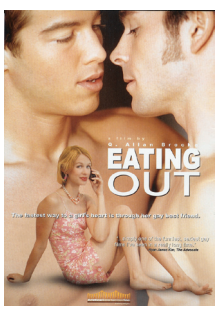
Hardcore is the tragic story of two teenage prostitutes, Nadia and Martha, trying to eke out a life together. The film lacks any real plot development; indeed the plot is incidental, a series of chaotic events randomly strung together. But in doing so, it creates the despairing, chaotic existence the two girls share. Rather than a plotline or character development, the film focuses on creating a dark, despairing, chaotic atmosphere. It seeks to envelop the viewer in its drug-induced haze, an alternate reality inhabited by tragic characters who, despite having given up on life, continue to eke out an existence.

When this desolate existence threatens to overtake the two girls, Nadia makes a bold move, convincing her boyfriend to kill her pimp and two witnesses then ruthlessly killing her boyfriend. Freed from a life of prostitution and acquitted of the killings, Nadia aspires to fame and fortune as a performer, using men as rungs on her ladder of success. Meanwhile, Martha is left behind, her world growing increasingly depressed and dismal. Despite living together, the two girls inhabit very different worlds, and those worlds finally collide with tragic consequences.

Although marketed as a lesbian film, it has none of the hand-holding, Birkenstock-wearing brand of lesbianism that American audiences have come to expect. True, the two girls share a relationship, sexual at times, but neither is exclusively lesbian. Given the nature of being prostitutes, it's unlike either views sex as anything more than predatory behavior. Instead, their relationship is based on dependence and survival; nothing romantic about it.

Directed by Dennis Iliadis • Available now from www.StrandReleasing.com

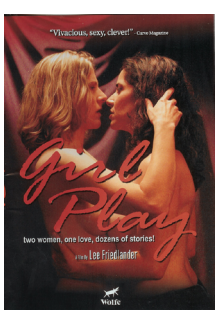
EATING OUT



If you thought gays have a finely-tuned sense of humor, here's a film to prove you wrong. Purportedly a gay teenage sex comedy, Eating Out fails to live up to even the lowered expectations of such a film. Based on the absurd premise that playing gay will lead to success with the ladies, straight boy Caleb (Scott Lunsford) goes out with Marc (Ryan Carnes) as part of an inane plan to score with Marc's gal pal Gwen (Emily Stiles) and also steer Marc toward Caleb's nerdy roommate, Kyle (Jim Verraros). As expected, absurd situations ensue, culminating in a bizarre phone sex threesome. Although billed as a comedy, the laughs are few and far between. Rather, I found myself cringing at the absurd plot twists and total lack of character development. And I simply wanted to snuff out Gwen. An entire psychiatric ward rolled into one, I couldn't imagine how anyone could spend five minutes alone in a room with her, let alone pretend to be gay to win her affections. Between the truly annoying characters and the tired one-liners that pass for dialogue, Eating Out makes the latest Aston Kutcher flick seem like a cinematic landmark.

Directed by Q. Allan Brocka • Available now from Ariztical Entertainment.

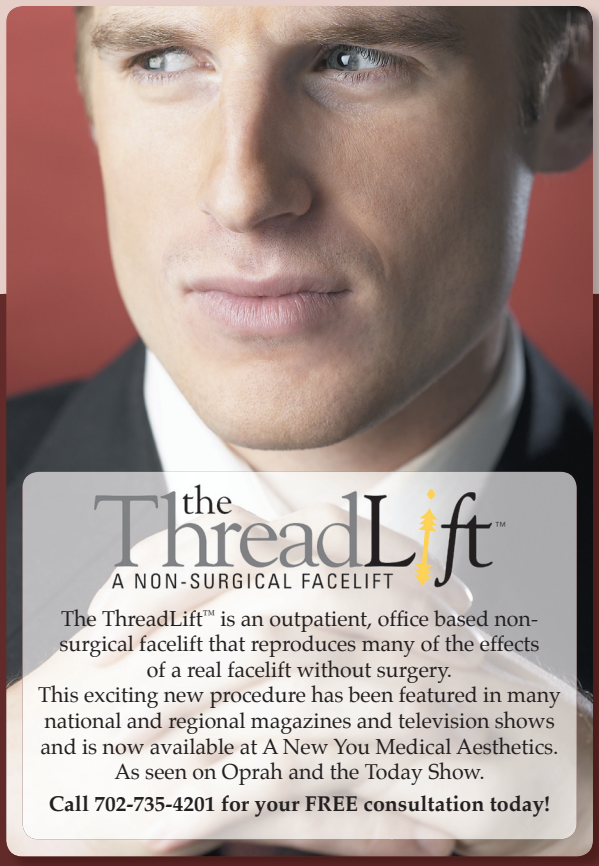
GIRL PLAY



As a film, *Girl Play* is long on introspection and short on plot. What plot there is centers on two women who fall in love while starring together in a play. In essence, the film is an extended soliloquy, with the two main characters speaking directly to the audience. They discuss in detail their relationships and their ambivalence about those relationships. Interspersed between their monologues are scenes illustrating their relationships, ranging from a coming-out scene with a stereotypical Jewish mother (Mink Stole, of John Waters fame) to a lush but gratuitous sex scene. Despite the constant self-absorbed talk, the characters never seem to fully materialize. Robin is fully committed to commitment and Lacie is more of a one-night stand type of gal, but that seems to be the extent of their personalities. A step up from most other lesbian films, *Girl Play* is short and sweet, but fails to make a lasting impression.

Directed by Lee Friedlander • Available now at www.WolfeFilms.com







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The ThreadLift™ effects will continue for up to 3-5 years, at which point a second procedure may be performed if desired.

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BOBBY FLAY'S MESA GRILL

At Caesars Palace
Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas

If you've turned on a television recently, it's hard to miss Bobby Flay: He's got shows on Food Network, has done a "Celebrity Kitchen Makeover" here in Vegas, and he's a regular on "Iron Chef America." His Mesa Grill, open for several months now at Caesars' Palace, has garnered mixed reviews: A National Public Radio review shortly after the opening started with the phrase "Taco Bell" and went downhill from there. Ouch. With that kinda press, I just couldn't resist checking it out.

The restaurant's décor is bright, sort of a formal-rustic atmosphere. The food is sort of a Tex-Mex-Fusion blend, taken up a notch in terms of preparation and presentation. Ingredients are of the Tex-Mex variety, but with very different arrangements and blends. Reading the menu, the restaurant definitely comes across as very creative. Signature dishes seem to largely be fish (at least during lunch), although there are plenty of non-seafood choices available. There's also a full bar and the margaritas are top-notch. If Flay ever tires of the restaurant biz he could open a very profitable bar — it's worth stopping by Mesa Grill solely for a prickly pear or classic margarita (although I thought the peach version was a bit sweet). Service was uniformly excellent on a fairly slow afternoon, although our waiter was a bit reluctant to make specific recommendations from the menu.

I started with the Goat Cheese "Queso Fundido," essentially a goat cheese fondue ($9) served with blue corn tortilla chips. There's good and bad here: Goat cheese is something I can get bored of easily, but this held out right to the end. The texture was perfect and well-balanced. On the bad side, I was hoping for a bit of punch—there were some small pieces of Jalapeno in there, I think, but I think it needed more. Other choices include a chopped salad ($8), spicy tuna tartar ($11), and a blue corn pancake ($9). The last item is BBQ duck in a habanero chile sauce; it was very savory, and had all the flavor I was expecting. I wished I'd tried the tartar to see exactly how spicy it was.

Entrees include chile-honey glazed wild salmon ($19), blue corn crusted halibut ($18), grilled tuna steak ($20), and a BBQ lamb Cobb salad ($17). The lamb in the salad was perfection: Tender, well-cooked, and well-seasoned. The tuna steak was well-cooked and well-presented, with a light crust, apricot couscous, and cranberry. It was very fresh-tasting and perfect for lunch. You do have to get some of everything in every bite; the tune meat itself wasn't seasoned beyond the seared exterior, and was a bit bland by itself. Dried apricots lent a wonderful, slightly crunchy texture. I did feel the tune needed a bit of something extra — maybe some sea salt — to really bring out the flavors that were there.

For dessert, get the spicy dark chocolate ice cream. It's a smooth, rich, chocolaty flavor that slowly fades into a pleasant, chili-pepper heat at the back of your mouth. It's absolutely wonderful, and goes great with the house coffee. A variety of other desserts are available, including a chocolate and banana bread pudding, and an orange poppy seed cake. The latter is a nice change from the usual lemon poppy seed cake, and included a filling of a very light-textured custard, covered with a light caramel on top. Served with berries, it's a summery treat that really tasted great.

All in all, I thought the food was good, but with just slightly less zest and pop than I was hoping for. That could be intentional; it's possible Flay's intention was to create something other than what I'd really expect from him. I don't think so, though — the food in his New York location was more to my liking, and seemed to offer a bit more spice. It's also possible that Caesars' — now owned by Harrah's, remember — has asked the menu to be taken down a notch to appeal to their clientele (neither Caesars' nor Harrah's is known for an adventurous gourmet crowd). If so, that's a shame—Flay should have stuck to his guns. While the food is great and the overall meal very enjoyable, it was just short of the "perfect" experience one expects from a celebrity chef of Flay's stature. I can absolutely recommend the restaurant — especially if you're someone who doesn't like really spicy food — but some of the dishes did leave me wanting for just a bit more. **Q**

WE ALSO RECOMMEND...

NOB HILL (MGM Grand, $$$$): San Francisco cuisine focused on fresh ingredients like fish and Kobe beef. Elegant décor. Perfect for a romantic evening (ask for one of the very private booths near the bar) or to take an important client who needs to be impressed.

THAI HOUSE II (S. Las Vegas Blvd. at Blue Diamond, $-$$): Every kind of Asian food you can imagine in a large, spacious restaurant. Kitschy lounge singer adds ambiance. Great benefit for mixed crowds who can find something for everyone, from sushi to thai to stiry fry.

SEA BLUE (MGM Grand, $$$-$$$$): Hardcore seadfood lovers only. The lobster corn dogs appetizers are a must, but if it swims you can probably get it here, Casual, somewhat noisy, good for a loud group. Excellent wine list complements almost any meal, and the staff is uniformly cheerful and helpful.

THE MELTING POT (W. Charleston, $$-$$$): The 70's fondue fad never really died. Fry up your own dinner in hot oil, start with a great cheese fondue, and of course finish with a chocolate fondue. Relaxing, modern décor. Enjoy with a bottle of wine from an excellent list.

PAYMON'S (W. Sahara or S. Maryland, $$-$$$): Everything Med: Greek, Italian, Persian, you name it. Prompt service and tasty, unusual dishes. Awesome choice for lunch during the week.

FELINI'S TOWER OF PASTA (Stratosphere, $$-$$$): Don't let the name or location fool you, this is one of the best inexpensive, full-service Italian places in town. Simple décor isolates you from the noise of the casino. The gnocchi is a particular favorite, although it's a challenge to eat the enormous portion. Great wines, especially cheap Italian favorites like Chianti.



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CALLING ALL WITCHES!

Can you believe it is October already? I love Halloween. That spooky month when everyone's a drag queen! Come out of the closet girls, you know you like to wear them heels, walk like a girl and pit those luscious M.A.C. Cosmetics lips.

September was very busy, what with openings, closings, anniversaries and hurricanes. New York, New York's *Zumanity* had their second year anniversary bash and yours truly was there in all of her Miss Kitty drag. Everyone in the hotel thought I was a cast member. What a compliment. I love *Zumanity*, lots of sex, sexy people and fabulous music. It was great to see the gay community in such numbers at New York, New York.



Chris and Kitty Litter celebrating their 20th anniversary with a bash thrown by Don Jones & Chris Gannon

My partner, Chris, and I celebrated our 20th anniversary, and we had the most wonderful party hosted by Don Jones and Chris Gannon, catered by Avec En Rose Caterers, my mom, Mary. Chris and I would like to thank the staff of *QVegas* for attending and the many wonderful friends that we have made here in Las Vegas.

Lots going on this gay drag queen month.



Painting of The Center's mural on the side of Rainbow Center/Snick's Place

On Saturday, Oct. 8, join Kitty Litter and the girls for a bawdy "get drunk and do a drag show" at the Lariat Saloon in Bullhead City, Ariz. It's part of NGRA weekend. They have a bus that leaves Badlands on Sunday, Oct. 9 around 10:00 a.m. and returns around 8:00 p.m. The bus tour is $15. Go to www.NGRA.org for more info, 'cause I ain't an advertisement.

This month is National Coming Out Day and The *QVegas* Street Festival is Saturday, Oct. 15 in the Fruit-loop. Come on out and meet those lip smacking Cingular Ad Karshner triplets at the festival. Yeah, Earl the Girl managed to get those boys out of Krave for a night and hosting the weekend Coming Out events. You go girl.

The Gay and Lesbian Community Center was one of over 170 organizations to receive an okay from the City of Las Vegas to produce a Centennial Mural. The "gay" mural is the 3rd largest (size queens!) and is located at the historic Snicks on 3rd Street and Imperial. Mayor Oscar Goodman, along with artists Grace Morgan and Lois Dohra, will dedicate the Mural on the First Friday in October at 4 p.m.

Also not to be missed this month is the Beaux Arts Ball at Studio 54. It is the Halloween costume event of the century — well the party is almost as old as a century. The party benefits Golden Rainbow, and if you have a costume to be seen in, then that is the place to be seen in. Dare you, Monday, Oct. 31. I ain't no advertisement so look for the ad.

Gossip, gossip and more gossip. The new Celebrity downtown was sold and closed in the same day. Don't worry girls, the new owner, Fred, said Celebrity will be re-opened soon, so keep your wigs on and your panties up. More gossip has it that 8½ is finally going to open in November, and I also heard that the decor is out of this world *fab-u-lous*. They did have to move the side of the building in several inches to meet building codes, so now maybe they should change the name to 7½.

Rafael of Badlands passed away last month, and what friends the man must have collected over the years. Badlands was more packed than a mule on a trail. Here's to you, Rafael; thanks for all your genuine community support. You gave the phrase "grouchy old man" meaning, and for that, you were loved and appreciated. We'll miss you.

To all of the citizens of the Gulf Coast states, Las Vegas is here for ya. I can't even begin to imagine what it must be like to lose home and hearth and be at the mercy of strangers, only to have your own government blowing smoke up your water- logged ass. Must have been so comforting to see "Dubya" driving around New Orleans and Gulf Port and waving and giving the old "blah, blah, blah." I know that he's not a perfect a**hole, because I hear he has hemorrhoids.

Parting shots from Auntie Kitty: come on OUT and support the gay community. Have a drink, meet a friend, make a new friend, find some sex; hell it worked for Chris and I. Hope to see you around, bitches.

Hugs and kisses,
Kitty



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Photo by Erhard Pfeiffer.

KRAVE CELEBRATES FIRST BIRTHDAY

Las Vegas' only LGBT friendly Club on the Strip celebrates its first birthday on Oct. 1. Club Impressario Sia Amiri and his team can beam with pride as they defy their critics and celebrate a year of great business.

KRAVE has, from the start, been a leading member of the community, supporting many of the non-profits around town as well as being a primary sponsor of Pride. KRAVE has placed itself firmly on the map as the place to go in Las Vegas for cutting edge dance music and the venue for celebrities both gay and straight.

The Fashionistas, John Stagliano's much acclaimed stage show based on his adult film of the same name, is also celebrating its first birthday. A male revue, KRAVE Men of Vegas, also enjoys a continued run at the venue.

As Krave embarks on its second year of bringing the best to Las Vegas, General Manager Bill Huggins promises even more exciting events, shows and community events. **Q**

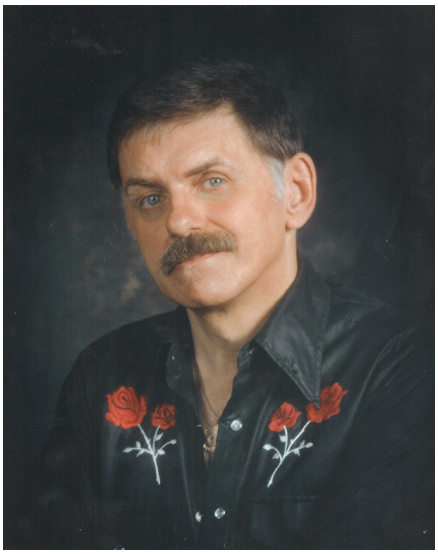


BROKE BACK MOUNTAIN WINS PRESTIGIOUS GOLDEN LION AWARD

Brokeback Mountain, starring Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal, topped 19 other competitors including favorite *Good Night, and Good Luck*, George Clooney's black-and-white movie, at the Venice Film Festival.

Receiving the Golden Lion award, Director Ang Lee described his movie as a "great American love story" that is "unique and so universal." The movie, which tells the story of a clandestine love affair between two cowboys set in the very conservative 1960s, scooped the highly coveted award.

The movie has received glowing reviews and should be available to see in Las Vegas from the national release date of Dec. 9, 2005. **Q**



RAFAEL NAVARRE
BADLANDS OWNER DIES

On September 3, it was announced that Raphael Navarre, long time resident of Las Vegas and owner of Badlands Saloon, had passed away. There are many who are saddened by the loss of a leading figure in the community.

Raphael, noted for his ascerbic wit and extraordinary charm, was generous with his time, money and effort in supporting the community which he had known, and been an active member of, from the early 60s.

Raphael was remembered at a public memorial wake held at his bar on Sep. 17. Many leading members of the community attended, some spoke and paid tribute to him. Q

FORTUNE 500 COMPANIES RECOGNIZE VALUE OF LGBT EMPLOYEES

A record 460 (92 percent) of FORTUNE 500 companies include gay and lesbian employees in their nondiscrimination policies, according to Equality Forum, a national gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) civil rights organization. Full listings by company name, revenue, state and industry, along with letters of support from CalPERS, Citigroup, Harvard University, The Rockefeller Foundation and the Ford Foundation, are posted at: www.equality-forum.com/fortune500/

"When over 90 percent of the FORTUNE 500 companies recognize the value of their gay and lesbian employees, it is time for Congress to listen and respond," stated Malcolm Lazin, Executive Director of Equality Forum. "Only sixteen states have laws prohibiting sexual orientation discrimination in private employment, and no federal protection exists for gay and lesbian Americans."

Equality Forum began contacting FORTUNE 500 companies in 2003, when 323 (65 percent) companies explicitly offered workplace protection to their gay and lesbian employees. In June 2005, Equality Forum entered into a collaboration with Professor Louis Thomas of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, and Professor Ian Ayres, William K. Townsend Professor, Yale Law School. Q

"GUBERNATOR" SEEKS TO TERMINATE BILL AUTHORIZING GAY MARRIAGE

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has said he will veto a bill authorizing gay marriage in California. The bill, which both houses of the Legislature passed, would expand the definition of marriage to include a civil contract between two people, not exclusively a man and woman.

Governor Schwarzenegger has said he won't sign the bill into law. Principle among his reasons for not doing so is that the voters have already decided the issue (vague balloted question five years ago). He states that it would be wrong of the legislature to second guess that decision.

Critics of the Governor say that he knows California's approval of legislation to OK civil unions between partners of the same sex would scupper the President's chances of rolling back the civil rights agenda and hijack the Governor's campaign for re-election.

Schwarzenegger has popularity issues which could well de-rail his re-election prospects. He has been described as a "very unwilling worm squirming on a large hook" which blind loyalty to the religious wing of his party, has put him on. Q

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NCOD FESTIVAL RETURNS, BIGGER THAN EVER

QVegas is once again teaming up with a number of local businesses and organizations to produce the annual National Coming Out Day Street Festival in the Fruit Loop on Saturday, Oct. 15. Begun in 2001 as a "block party" style event in celebration of the Human Rights Campaign's annual day for visibility, the event is quickly becoming one of the most anticipated social events of the year.

Like previous years, the NCOD Street Festival will be held in the parking lots outside FreeZone, Gipsy, Hamburger Mary's and what will soon become 8½. The festival will include a variety of on-stage entertainment as well as booths and games representing a variety of organizations, political groups and businesses.

New to this year's event, now aptly named the NCOD Weekend Festival, are the pre-party at Goodtimes on Friday, Oct. 14 with great dancing and live entertainment, and the T-dance at Blue Moon Resort on Sunday, Oct. 16.

This event benefits QVegas Foundation, the non-profit organization affiliated with Stonewall Publishing, Inc., publishers of *QVegas* and *Out Las Vegas* magazines. The QVegas Foundation donates money and services to all charitable organizations serving the Vegas LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities.

Comedy duo Tony Arias and Lloyd Ziel, better known as Tony & Lloyd, will again be the Masters of Ceremony for the street festival. Models/actors the Karshner triplets, best known for their Cingular commercial, will be appearing at all events.

For further details on the NCOD Weekend Festival, visit www.NCODVegas.com. **Q**














Photos from 2004's NCOD Street Festival by M. Cory Burgess

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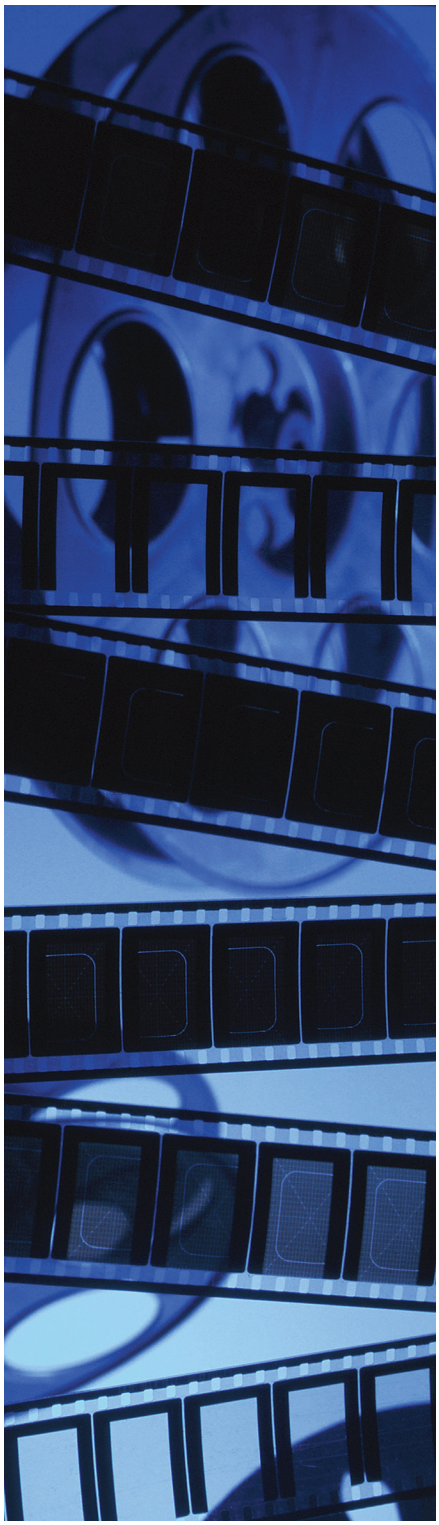
Bill Fisher's life outta be in pictures. He said, "I came out of the womb singing, 'Hello, Dolly!'" But instead of being gay in the movies, he's bringing gay movies to the local screen as president of NeonFest GLBT International Film Festival of Las Vegas. NeonFest debuted last year as part of National Coming Out Day, screening some 16 films to a festival audience of 1500.

This year's festival almost didn't happen after Bill Fisher's car was rear-ended by a reckless fundamentalist earlier this year. "She said, 'I don't have time to wait for the police, I'm late for church,' and I told her, 'Well, you better pray for a good lawyer,'" Fisher said. Although Fisher was down for several months, the show must go on, and he and the dedicated festival board is keeping the promise of bringing LGBT cinema to Las Vegas.

Fisher said that that most rewarding payoff from the non-profit event is hearing audience members say, "I didn't know they had this on film." One lady whose gay nephew had committed suicide thanked Fisher for bringing these films to the local community. He said one of the purposes of NeonFest is to show local theaters that there is an audience for LGBT cinema. Another is to expose LGBT youth to gay cinema in order to inspire the writers and directors of tomorrow's films. A documentary film made by the Youth Group at the LGBT Center will premiere at this year's NeonFest.

In the spirit of Las Vegas' centennial, NeonFest's theme this year is looking back at LGBT cinema history. Opening night's festivities will include a showing of the documentary, *That Man, Peter Berlin*, about the '70s erotic idol by filmmaker Jim Tushinski, followed by an audience reception with the filmmaker and Peter Berlin. The festival will also feature a revival of 1982's mainstream breakthrough *Making Love*, directed by Arthur Hiller. Also being revived is Vito Russo's classic, *The Celluloid Closet*, directed by Oscar-winning gay documentary filmmakers Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman.

New features being shown include *Slutty Summer*, a romantic comedy directed by Casper Andreas of Embrem Entertainment, about a gay man who catches his lover cheating and decides that the only way to get over his heartbreak is by having his own affairs. Also, *Surge of Power*, a comedy by Vincent Roth, who is the director, executive producer, writer and star of this action-comedy about a gay superhero. Nichelle Nichols, Lt. Uhura of *Star Trek* fame, stars as the guiding force for the superhero. The film also has cameos by Lou "the Hulk" Ferrigno and TV's original Lois Lane, Noel Neill. Neill has the best line in the film, "*That* never happened to Superman!" Roth will be available afterwards for audience questions.



New screen hottie Ash Newman plays Daniel, a bi Jewish man, in *Shem*, a film by Caroline Roboh about a young Jewish man's search for his identity. The role earned Newman the Best Actor prize at the 2004 New York Independent Film Festival. The gay Muslim community is represented by *Road to Love*, the story of an Arab student in Paris who discovers his homosexuality, directed by French filmmaker Remi Lange. LGBT Christians should enjoy *Fish Can't Fly*, a tongue-in-cheek docudrama about the Homo Nomo Church for ex-gays directed by T. Joe Murray.

Two Spanish-language films will be shown, *El Favor*, by Spanish filmmaker Pablo Sofovich, about a lesbian couple trying to obtain donor-sperm from a brother and *My Mother Likes Women*, directed by Ines Paris and Daniela Fejerman, about three daughters who find out their mother is a lesbian.

Other films are *XX to XY: Fighting to Be Jake*, a moving film about the struggle of a female-to-male transsexual by German filmmaker Emily Atef, *Journey of Love: Leaning to Forgive*, a film about living with HIV with a twist and *The Reception*, about an African-American man who is HIV positive. A short that pokes fun at the similarities of corporate America and being gay is *Recruiting*, by Bobby Roger Poirier and James Noel Hoban.

NeonFest opens Friday, Oct. 7 and runs through Sunday, Oct. 9 at the Crown Theaters in Neonopolis. Fisher says that despite the tensions between the gay community and Neonopolis over the complex's refusal of the gay club Celebrity, Steven Winn at Crown has been an important supporter of the festival and the Crown Theatres staff has been very helpful. Community business sponsors are important for the non-profit festival, and Fisher hopes to get sponsorships for individual films.

For more information and to download free online vouchers for NeonFest films go to www.neonfest.com. All films are free to the public, but attendees must present a voucher. Fisher said that last year some people stayed at the theater for every film, and he reports, "The hot dogs are great at the theater!" **Q**

By Richard Davis

SIZABLE NEW SEASONS AT VEGAS' SMALL THEATRES

Don't have the money to sit through one more bloated Strip production show? The good news is community theater is thriving in Las Vegas, and the upcoming season promises to be the best ever in terms of variety and talent — and audience. Never heard of some of these theaters? Don't worry, says Marilyn Weinmann, administrative director of New City Theatre, "You may not have heard about us yet, but you will!"

New City Theatre is a case in point. New City's last three shows were SRO. The company maintains acting, writing and stagecraft workshops to train young Las Vegans in theatercraft. The upcoming season opens with "Dracula's Audition," followed by "Don't Dress for Dinner" and the jazzy "World of Neon." For more information on shows and classes, go to www.newcitytheatre.com or call 702-795-0487.

Cockroach Theatre is proud to be a Vegas-based theater group that showcases local artists. Cockroach gained an international presence when the group presented "original work written, performed and produced by local Las Vegas artists at the 2003 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the largest arts festival in the world." Cockroach's major fall production is Richard Foreman's "Permanent Brain Damage," which their Web site describes as "an experimental journey through one man's psychological nightmare." The show will be presented at this year's Burning Man Festival and afterwards in Las Vegas at the Aruba Hotel. For show information go to www.cockroachtheatre.com or call 702-743-3839.

Although nothing in your background or breeding should have brought you any closer to the stage than Row E Center, you may wish to check out "Dude, Where's My Cockroach?" the group's night of theatrical improvisation on the last Wednesday of every month. Cost of admission is $7 and "your writing or acting talents."

Test Market will be presenting their fourth annual Beckett Festival, Nov. 8 through Dec. 2 at the downtown Arts Factory on Charleston and Main Street. Three of Samuel Beckett's absurdist classics will be presented this year: "The Dumb Waiter," "End Game" and "The Bald Soprano." For festival information go to www.godsexandbowling.com or call 702-736-4313.

Both UNLV and CCSN present more traditional offerings. Nevada Conservatory Theatre will be presenting the Tony award-winning musical "Carnival!" (Dec. 2-11) with music and lyrics by Bob Merrill and featuring the hit song, "Love Makes the World Go Round." Also worthy of note is the Pulitzer Prize winning "Crimes of the Heart" (Sept. 23-Oct. 2) by Beth Henley and the Obie Award-winning comedy, "The Foreigner" (Nov. 11-20) by Larry Shue. Contact the UNLV Performing Arts Box Office for more information at 702-895-ARTS or online at www.UNLVTickets.com.

CCSN's Performing Arts Department will be staging a timely production of the Greek classic "Lysistrata" at the Little Theatre, Nov. 11-20. In this "anti-war comedy of gender politics" women withhold sex from their husbands to secure peace. For information call 702-651-LIVE (5483) or go online to www.ccsn.nevada.edu/pac/.

The talented high school performers at the Las Vegas Academy of the Performing Arts will be kicking off the new season in a brand-new state of the art theater. Among the offerings will be a staging of the Broadway musical "Thoroughly Modern Millie" in February. For information, e-mail Subscription Manager Glen Edwards at gedwards@interact.ccsd.net or do a Google search for "star tickets plus."

The grande dame of Las Vegas community theaters, the Las Vegas Little Theatre (LVLT), will be staging their first complete season in their comfortable and roomy new home at 3920 Schiff Drive, just behind Chinatown. The season opener (Sept. 9-25) is "Beau Jest," a comedy by James Sherman about a Jewish family whose *shiksa* daughter hires an actor to pretend he is her "boyfriend, the doctor" instead of the *goy* she is really dating. But the actor is handsome, and she has a gay brother.

The company has book-cased the season by closing with Sherman's comedy sequel, "Jest a Second" (May 5-21, 2006). Now the gay brother hires the same versatile actor to play his girlfriend. The same cast will reprise their roles for the sequel.

But the crown of the season will be the 2003 Tony award-winner for Best Play, "Take Me Out," by Richard Greenberg (March 24-April 9, 2006). The play is about the handsome star center fielder of a world champion baseball team who decides to come out. LVLT Board President Walter Niejadlik will direct. The climax of the play is a confrontation between the gay center fielder and a straight pitcher, in the locker room, in the nude. Niejadlik said, "Even the hammiest actor gets a little nervous throwing it all out there in a nude scene."

To get his actors used to going *au natural*, he plans to rehearse them initially fully clothed, then in underwear, then on a closed set, before finally having an undressed rehearsal on an open set. Auditions should be interesting. And do they need a fluffer?

For show and ticket information go on-line at www.LVLT.org or order by phone at 1-800-595-4TIX (4849). Warning: LVLT shows sell out early. **Q**

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By Chris Saldaña

CHRIS KELLER ▪ NEW ORLEANS PARAMEDIC

FACING THE STORM

The lights of Las Vegas attract thousands to our city every day. But for some New Orleans firefighters and paramedics, including openly gay Chris Keller, the glitz and glamour were a getaway from the death and destruction they encountered everyday after Hurricane Katrina hit.

A group of about 20 and their families were in Las Vegas for rest and relaxation after working around the clock. New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin called Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman and asked for help in getting these first responders away for some R&R. Local casinos and a number of agencies helped pay for their trip.

Keller has been a paramedic for more than 10 years and was working nonstop, rescuing people while dodging the bullets of looters and those he and others labeled as "thugs."

"Every time we made trips into the city to rescue people the thugs, they would shoot at us. It made getting out to rescue any people virtually impossible."

Dealing with Mother Nature, this disaster quickly turned deadly. Keller recalled seeing bodies floating around his surroundings. But he and others were determined to rescue all who met Katrina face to face and lived. And after hours of helping those who needed it most, Keller's partner was nowhere to be found after the massive flooding inundated The Big Easy.

"I knew the name of the hotel where he was at in the French Quarter. But then they evacuated and I had no idea where he went. I had to keep doing my job though," Keller said. And he did.

Keller eventually made it to the hotel where Topher was staying, looking for any sign of hope. Accompanied with two armed federal agents, and armed himself, Keller went door to door looking for his partner. Days later, the two were reunited in the French Quarter when he saw Topher on a flooded street smoking a cigarette. One of Keller's heartfelt missions was complete.

Taking Topher with him to "the compound," a nursing home turned into first responder headquarters and refuge for their families and loved ones, Chris returned back to work, knowing Topher was safe.

Keller recalled of his busiest days, "When we airlifted I don't know how many thousands of people by helicopter a nine-hour operation, wall to wall of people."

During his Las Vegas trip, Keller and Topher were able to sleep in a bed, take a warm shower and eat a decent meal. "I can never eat another peanut or Doritos in my life again and be fine. That's all I ate for days," Topher said. Keller said they were just relieved to be away and have a sense of normalcy for a couple of days.

Both agree, they are not too keen of the term refugees when being referred to. "We are victims too. It took me several days for that to sink in; we're actually in the same boat as the people we're saving," Keller said.

Being away from the death and destruction had its hang ups though. He said when people realized where he was from and what he did, the memories were relived. "Everybody wants to talk about New Orleans, which is the opposite of what we are here for. But because everybody has been so gracious, that's the least we can do, share our experiences."

While here, the group was treated to shows, tours of casinos, whatever it took to get their minds off what they left behind; even if it was for just a few days. And when asked if he'll be back to Vegas, Keller answered with his big bright smile, "I like Las Vegas, but I will return [to New Orleans] until my work is done. I'm not going to abandon my brothers and sisters in New Orleans. Maybe after, I'll come back." **Q**

> "We are victims too. It took me several days for that to sink in; we're actually in the same boat as the people we're saving.

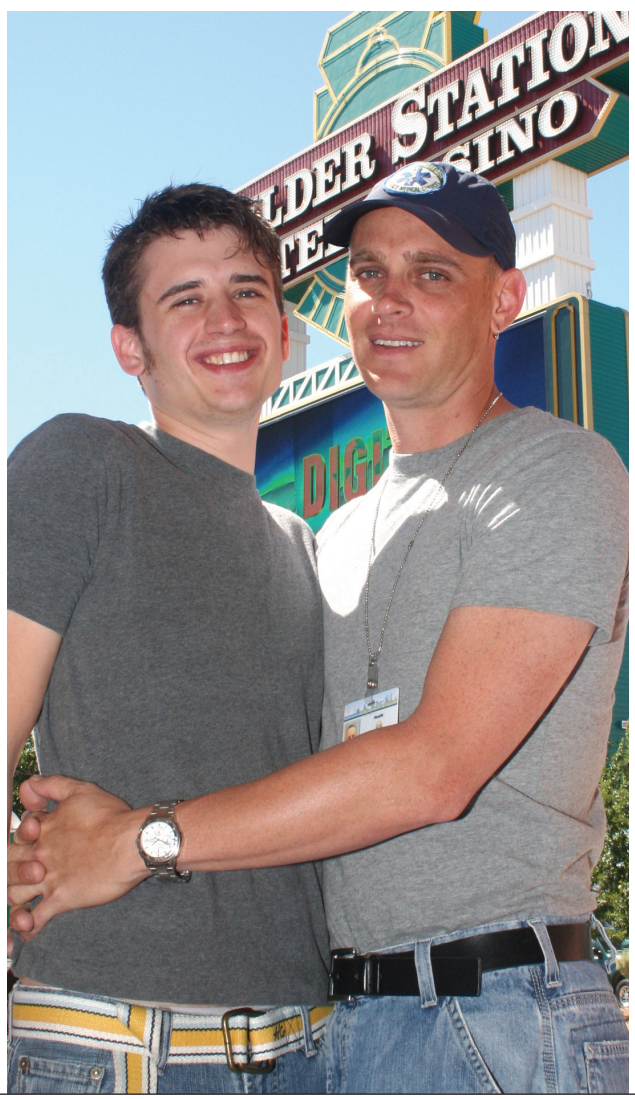


Photo by M. Cory Burgess.

New Orleans paramedic Chris Keller (at right) relaxes with his partner, Topher, at Boulder Station during a respite in Las Vegas.

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By Christopher Gannon

DOMINICK VITALE ▪ RAINBOW CENTER

HE'S GOT HIGH HOPES

Dominick Vitale grew up in Pennsylvania, where his father owned a restaurant named Mickey's on Girard Ave. in downtown Philadelphia. You would think that having a family background in the restaurant and bar business would make him a natural to own and operate a bar, but he took the long way around to getting there. "I did not decide to be a bar owner — the bar picked me."

At the age of 18, Dominick joined the military and did a four-year stint for Uncle Sam. Dominick used his military service as a way to pay for college by qualifying for a G.I. Bill grant. Unfortunately, three years into his education, the school closed down. Not knowing what he was going to do with himself, Dominick decided to try his luck in Las Vegas. He arrived without a job in the spring of '76, but thanks to a recommendation from his roommate was hired by the Golden Nugget. Dominick worked there as a dealer for six years.

Deciding that he wanted to try something different, Dominick left the Golden Nugget to pursue a career in the public sector. He was able to get a job with the Housing Authority of the City of Las Vegas, where he believed he could have a positive impact on the lives of those living in the community.

After working for the Housing Authority for 10 years, Dominick was feeling burned out and decided to go back to what he knew, taking a job as a bartender for Choices. That's where he met Ralph Vandersnick, the original owner of Snick's Place and the one from whom the bar took its name. Seeing a lot of potential, and a person who cared about his community, Ralph offered Dominick a position as bar manager. Just before Ralph passed away, he willed the bar to Dominick so that it would continue as a gay-owned and operated business. Dominick believes that "since Snick's is the oldest operating gay bar in Las Vegas, I have a duty to make sure that the bar remains in operation. I will do everything in my power to ensure that Snick's is always here."

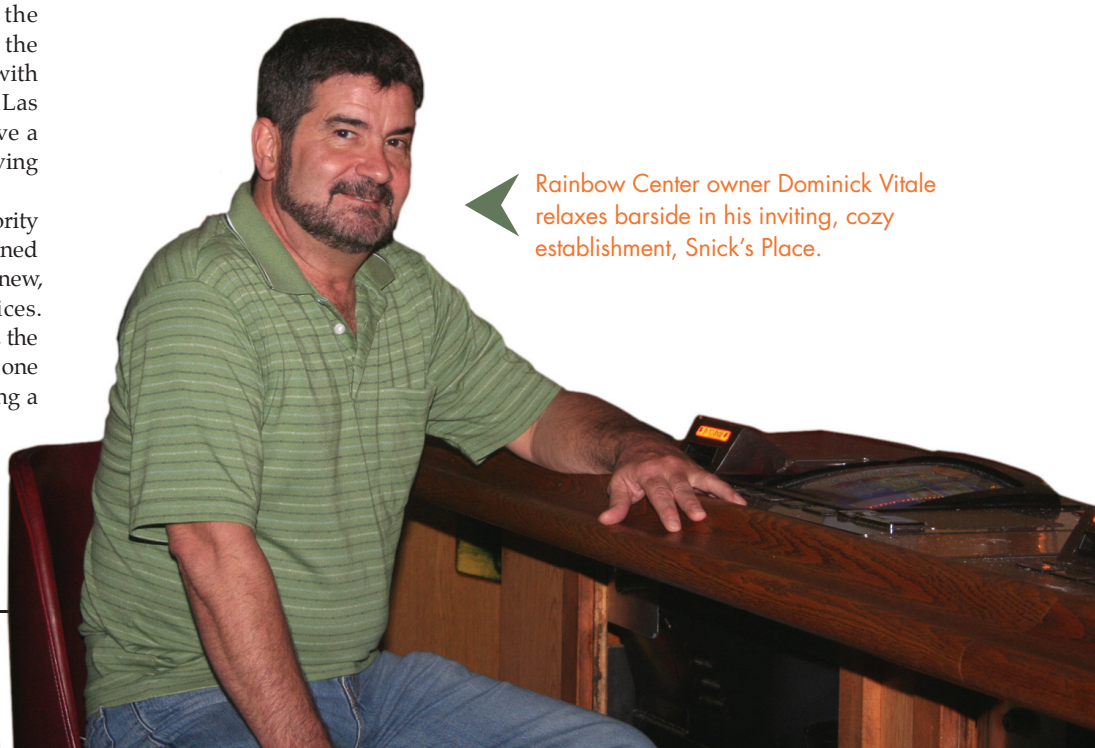
A few months ago, the owners of the building that Snick's is located in decided to sell the property. "I knew that the new owners would not renew the lease on a gay bar, and I see a lot of potential in this area," Dominick says. In order to keep Snick's doors open, Dominick decided to purchase the entire complex.

Dominick has big plans for the complex. "I would like for this to become a gay retail destination. I think that this [is] a great location for a few gay-owned and gay-friendly businesses to locate. The area is changing and becoming a neighborhood, and this is the perfect time for the gay community to move in and make their own small slice of the downtown area." To try and encourage growth, Dominick attends Lambda Chamber of Commerce and other business group meetings to tell business owners and entrepreneurs about the location which he's named Rainbow Center.

> "I would like for this to become a gay retail destination. I think that this [is] a great location for a few gay-owned and gay-friendly businesses to locate. The area is changing and becoming a neighborhood, and this is the perfect time for the gay community to move in and make their own small slice of the downtown area.

The wish to see a gay retail area develop downtown stems from Dominick's pride and active role in the local gay community. He believes that all the gay businesses need to support one another through word of mouth and by small actions. " I always send flowers and try to attend the grand opening of every new gay business," he says. "It's really important to show other businesses that we're here, and to let them know that they can rely on me to help expand their businesses."

Dominick sees a lot of potential in the Las Vegas gay community that hasn't been realized. He believes that "If we tighten up our relationships, we can make something of ourselves." He has high hopes that the community will grow. Dominick may have come to Las Vegas not knowing what he'd make of himself, but today he and Snick's Place are respected members of the community, and he has high hopes that the community will continue to grow and improve. **Q**



Rainbow Center owner Dominick Vitale relaxes barside in his inviting, cozy establishment, Snick's Place.

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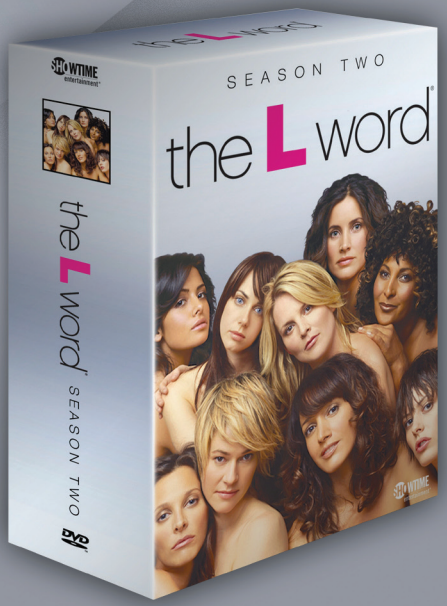
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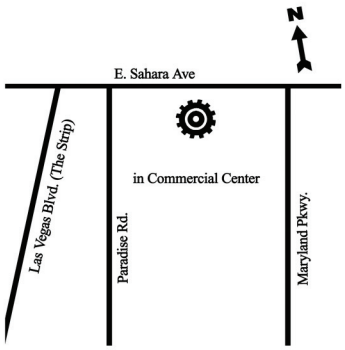
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By JoSelle Vanderhooft

TO UNITARD OR NOT TO UNITARD

I'm too old to trick-or-treat, and I have been for the last 12 years. This has put something of a damper on subsequent Halloweens as I find most adult festivities (in both senses of the word) beneath my contempt, to put it mildly. Answering the door with a bowl full of O Henrys and wearing a sparkly witch's hat makes me feel all shades of post-college pathetic, and the dance clubs? Nothing says "*so* 1987" to me like workin' it to "Thriller" or "Monster Mash" with a floor filled with grown men and women. I mean, if either of these things are your bag — or, you know, you're down with watching *Evil Dead II* with a group of friends like I did in college — more power to you. I, on the other hand, have yet to find a way that isn't illegal, immoral or fattening to celebrate Halloween as a certified adult.

Come to think of it, with the exception of those *Evil Dead II* nights, I haven't truly relished a Halloween since 1993 when I took my two little cousins around the block in search of Snickers bars and M&Ms. *Star Trek: The Next Generation* was still in its heyday, and I had more than a bit of a smash on Counselor Deanna Troi, which explained the Star Fleet uniform (no, not the pink unitard. That frightened me). Just a simple walk around the neighborhood with two other kids, October air made my night. It may have been the company, it may have been the candy, hell, it may have even been that teenage *joi de vivre* which briefly falls between childhood and the 10th Circle of Hell known as high school. But I've finally realized, it wasn't any of these things.

It was the dyketastic costume, even if the dyke wearing it was young to figure it out. Like Dorothy's ruby slippers (or silver for those of you who preferred the books), the key to enjoying Halloween was with me all along; I just needed to spend a decade getting jiggy with *Sweet Dreams are Made of Fears* to realize it. So, for Halloween 2005 I plan to enjoy myself by dressing up as a lesbian icon — with a twist. The twist being that we currently live in a time when blaming gays and lesbians for everything (including hurricanes and terrorism) has surpassed baseball as the new national sport, so there is no room for flippancy. My dyke-themed Halloween costume will not only involve spandex, sex appeal, camp, spandex and um…more camp. No! It will also be politically responsible. With all that in mind, I've concocted three possible costumes to likeminded lesbians to wear on Oct. 31. Feel free to copy them, or invent your own. The more the merrier, as they say.



> I had more than a bit of a smash on Counselor Deanna Troi, which explained the Star Fleet uniform (no, not the pink unitard. That frightened me).

1 *Xena: Bore-ior Princess*: I confess, I never watched *Xena* as much as I should have. But I thought she was pretty cool, anyway, so who better to start our list? Since I could not wear Lucy Lawless' chromium bustier and saucy leather skirt without feeling silly, I have modified the outfit somewhat. It now consists of jeans, sensible shoes and flannel. *Lots* of flannel. Flannel to the point that the wearer looks…well, like your average rumpled lesbian. This is a good costume for those still (semi)closeted because of its ability to start conversations. Example: random employee strolls up to you at one of those lame office parties and says, "Hey, Darla! Where's your costume? Isn't that what you always wear on casual Fridays?" "Yes, Ted. I'm a lesbian," "Huh. You mean on all those other days, or just today?" "Every day, Ted. I'm a lesbian every day." Said lesbian can then easily launch into a full coming-out story replete with all the gory — er, boring details of the lesbian lifestyle like shopping for groceries, mowing the lawn and taking the cat to the vet. While this costume may well put everyone within a five-mile radius to sleep, they'll know that you're gay, and your life is just as boring as theirs when they wake up.

2 *Voter Woman*: For those who think spandex is actually comfortable or who just like it for the camp factor, this is the costume for you! Obviously modeled on Wonder Woman, this Halloween costume is perfect for some political performance art ala Holly Hughes. Just dress yourself in the red, white and blue spandex leotard (or a more traditional swim-suity thing for our more adventurous sisters), and you too can stop Halloween revelers in mid-twirl as you inform them of the struggle for gay rights on Capital Hill with a clever monologue on the Federal Marriage Amendment! Amaze political enemies with your rebuttals against banning gay adoption! Stupefy them with your unveiling of the anti-gay bias of the far right (and the far left, for that matter!). Be sure to close your performance with at least one riff on the aristocrats joke and/or flag burning.

3 *Your Sister, Mother, Grandmother, Niece, Aunt, Best friend or second cousin once removed*: Finally we get to my favorite. On the surface, this isn't a lesbian icon with a twist or otherwise. That's the genius of this one. It's actually much more. If you don't believe me, just try it. If someone can't grasp the idea of you as a lesbian, why not literally put them in your shoes (or you in theirs)? Ask them what they'd feel like if they were gay and living in today's current political climate. Would it lead them to freak out and call you some crazy stalker/freak/person with a sick sense of humor? Probably. Would it lead them to dis-invite you to Christmas dinner? Probably. Would it give them pause to think? Who knows. You've got to admit though, that's one helluva idea.

Whether you're answering the doorbell this year, going to a club or vegging out in front of a cheesy horror flick, be sure and have a happy and safe Halloween.

And for the love of God, don't wear the pink unitard. Some things are just too damn scary. **Q**



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By Don Jones

ADDING A CHLORINE GENERATOR TO YOUR NEW OR EXISTING POOL

SALT OF THE…POOL?

Most pool owners are all too familiar with the boring task of adding chemicals to their pools. Certainly, anyone who's used a pool can remember how the water irritated their eyes, bleached their clothes, and made their hair a mess. That's because the chlorine used in traditional pools is irritating — it's practically bleach you're swimming in. What's interesting is that pure, natural chlorine, in the quantities needed to sanitize a pool, *isn't* that irritating.

That's where saltwater, or soft-water pools, come in. David at Hawaiian Pools says they recommend them to all of their customers, and at just about $1,200 extra, it's well worth the money. He says the pool water is "gentler on the skin, and much more enjoyable. The benefits far outweigh the cost."

Here's how it works: You'll start by dumping a quantity of fine-grained salt — almost the consistency of table salt — into your pool. An electric cell, called the chlorine generator, is installed in the pool's return line. Electric current within the cell breaks down the salt, which is sodium chloride, into pure, natural chlorine. This sanitizes the pool and, unlike liquid chlorine, doesn't boil away easily. As your pool water evaporates, the chlorine — much of which eventually recombines into salt — stays in the pool. That means you don't have to add chemicals. Instead, the salt water creates an automatic, continuous cycle that keeps your water clear and algae-free.

The word "salt water" puts some folks off, however, as they imagine an ocean-like pool. That's far from reality, however: A properly-installed saltwater pool has a lower level of salinity than your tears, and the salt is very difficult (impossible, for most people) to taste. The poor perception, however, is why many professionals refer to it as a *soft* water pool, an accurate enough term given how gentle it is on your skin, eyes, clothes, and hair.

Older pools can usually be retrofitted for under $2,000. Some minor plumbing will have to be done to make room for the generator cell, and a controller box will have to be mounted. The controller box usually consists of a chlorine readout and an adjustment dial, although once properly adjusted you'll probably never have to touch it. In fact, the only maintenance you'll need to do — other than physical maintenance like vacuuming and sweeping — is periodically soaking the cell in a bucket of acid. The acid helps break up calcium and other deposits that result from our notoriously hard water, returning the cell to full efficiency. You *won't* be dumping salt in the pool. That's usually a last resort, something best left to professionals and only after a thorough water analysis.

Given that a year's supply of chlorine tabs can run $200 or more, a chlorine generator can quickly pay for itself. Plus, the added benefit of a gentler, less irritating, and more maintenance-free pool adds tremendous value and enjoyment to your pool. That's why more and more pool installers are recommending soft water systems, and it's why you should give some serious thought to converting your existing pool. You'll be glad you did! **Q**



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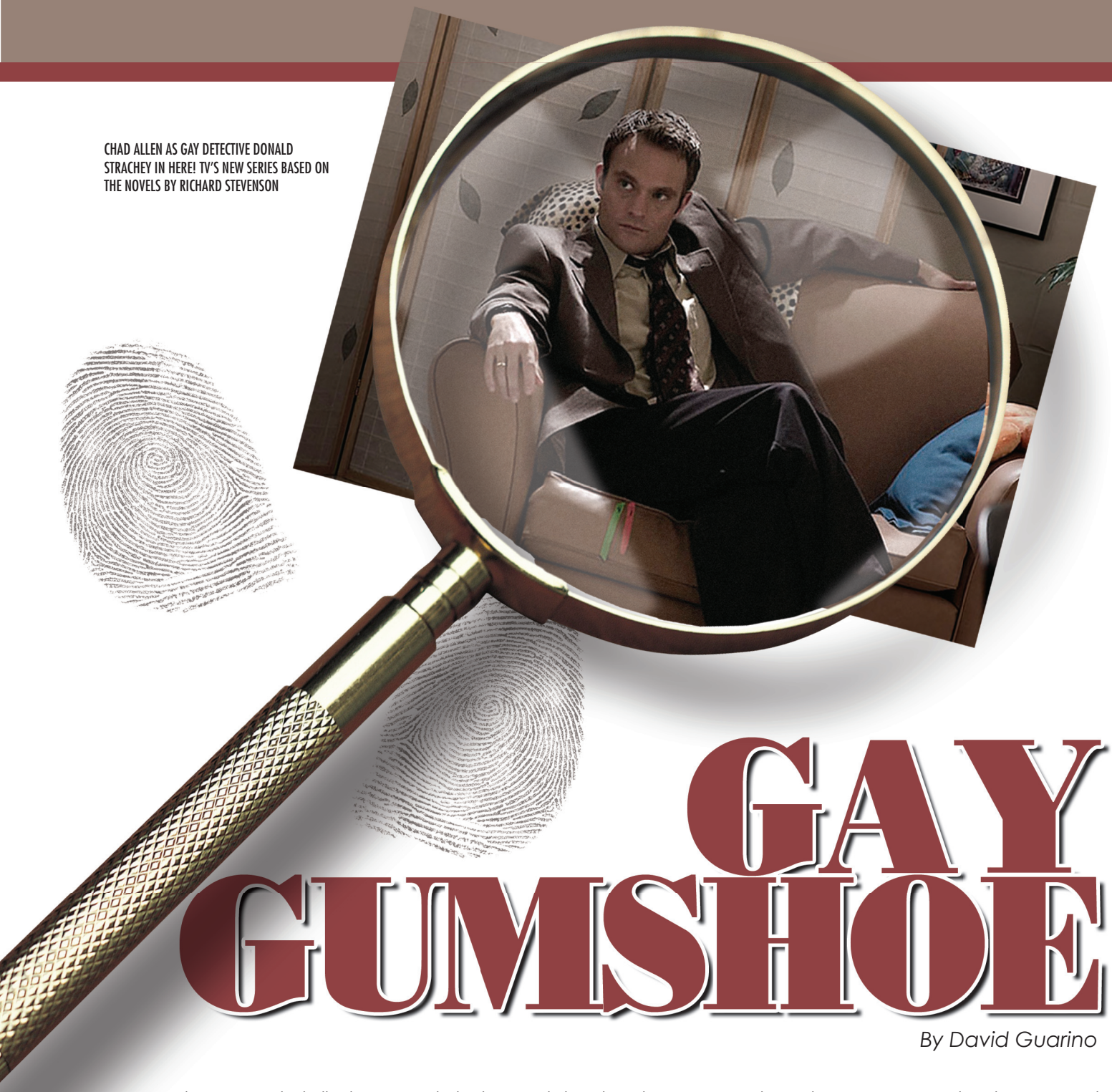
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CHAD ALLEN AS GAY DETECTIVE DONALD STRACHEY IN HERE! TV'S NEW SERIES BASED ON THE NOVELS BY RICHARD STEVENSON

GAY GUMSHOE

By David Guarino

Openly gay actor Chad Allen has a great deal to be excited about these days. For starters, his production company, "mythgarden," (co-owned by *Queer as Folk* alumnus and pal Robert Gant) is undertaking a host of exciting projects aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of salient issues affecting the Lesbian, Gay, Transgender and Transsexual Communities. A significant example is a film called *Save Me*, (currently in production), which deals with an "ex-gay" ministry and the havoc it wreaks among its would-be converts. Allen, Gant and Judith Light are slated to star in the production.

But Allen's ambitious forays into unchartered territory will extend into the world of crime as the former star of *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman* returns to television this fall as gay detective Donald Strachey. Cable TV's here! TV has boldly stepped up to the plate of providing groundbreaking LGBT programming with its ripping new series based on the widely successful crime novels of acclaimed author Richard Stevenson.

The first Strachey offering, *Third Man Out*, is based on the fourth Stevenson novel and centers on our queer detective's quest to locate the would-be assassins of a prominent gay activist despised for his nasty proclivity of outing closeted gays. This installment, which was ably directed by *Queer as Folk* alumnus Ron Oliver and written by Mark Saltzman, premiered Sept. 2 on Here TV to outstanding reviews. The next installment, *Ice Blues*, will also focus its action in upstate New York, though the actual filming will take place in Canada.

I had the distinct pleasure of chatting with the sensitive and articulate Allen about his exciting new role as TV's pioneer queer crime-buster and his fascinating perspectives on life as an openly gay actor and activist.

Chad, we all know that a lot of really exciting things are happening for you right now. What's currently happening that you're the most excited about?

The most exciting part of my life is the fact that I'm 31 years old; I seem to have discovered a modicum of peace and understanding and trust in the person that I've become; I actually like the guy that I am most of the time. And I've got amazing relationships in my life, that's first and foremost.

Career-wise, there are so many wonderful things happening; it's such an exciting time to be a gay and lesbian storyteller…right now there are so many avenues that have finally opened up for us for us to tell our stories, the stories of our loved ones, our heroes throughout history; it's a great time to be doing what we're doing. We've got "mythgarden" going on, I've got the (Strachey) movies with here! TV going on and other projects. It's all very good.

Tell me a bit more about your involvement in the Donald Strachey queer private eye movies with here! TV, Chad.

Well, David, they begin with *Third Man Out*, which is airing in the U.S. in September on here! TV.

And here! TV is a digital cable network?

Digital cable, mostly available as video on demand. Direct TV has it as a subscription channel as do a couple of other cable networks throughout the country. Actually it's available to 98 percent of the digital cable homes in America, which amounts to around 40 million homes. So that's pretty exciting stuff for those of us who have waited a long time for gay entertainment.

And you're actually starring as gay detective extraordinaire Donald Strachey in this new series?

Yes. Six two-hour mystery movies based upon the Donald Strachey Detective Series…a series of novels written by Richard Stevenson. And the first one is "Third Man Out," and



we've all had a good look at that over the summer because we've been touring it to film festivals across the country. And it's a lot of fun. Straight-up, old-fashioned private eye film noir detective movie.

With a gay detective as the hero for a refreshing change?

Absolutely! This time around the hero private eye detective — instead of going home to the girl — goes home to the guy, and we get our first real private eye hero who's gay! This is actually the first film character I've ever gotten to play who's gay, and after 26 years of being in the business (not to mention ten years of being out), it's so much fun to finally be playing a queer character.

That brings up an important question. In your opinion, how risky is it to be an openly gay actor in Hollywood today?

I would say if your intention is to follow some elusive model that's been presented before, and you're interested in playing it safe,



then yes, it's still risky. However, I would say that if you're willing to think outside of the box and take some risks and shake things up a bit, and say I believe that those older models have been obliterated, which they have, and strike out to do something new, I don't think it's risky at all. My career is more interesting and a hell of a lot busier than it's ever been. And my work is better. I feel better as a person. It's kind of incredible. Do I think it's right for everybody? No. But I'm a politically-minded person; I always have been. I've never been comfortable with secrets or living in the closet, so I knew that coming out was the only real option that I had.

I asked this question of Bobby Gant and Hal Sparks of *Queer as Folk*, and I'm going to ask you: have the stars of a show like *Queer as Folk* committed career suicide?

No, no way! In fact, *Queer as Folk* taught us something that's really interesting. It was assumed, before *Queer as Folk*, that women



(who are the core audience when you're talking about leading male actors), would not be attracted to or interested in watching an openly gay personality played on television, that this would turn them off essentially. But what *Queer as Folk* revealed, more than ever, was that women were just as attracted to a male actor whether they were queer or not. And whether they were playing a gay character or not. So the audience for that show was packed with housewives who got together to watch the show. They loved the gay characters. They loved the romance. It didn't faze them one way or the other, whether the actors were openly gay or not. And I think that surprised a lot of people.

Chad, can you share with us what prompted you to come out publicly? Was it one single event? Was it a number of forces coming together? What gave you the courage to take that step?

Well, David, when I was 21 years old, a boy that I was dating sold photos of us kissing together in a swimming pool. He sold them for many thousands of dollars to *Globe Magazine*. He took the photos and held it over my head, and I realized that I really had no power because I was living in secret. And I was not ready to talk openly about my sexuality at the time.

But two years later, after the flood of e-mails and letters from especially young people around the country who heard that I might be gay through rumors-were writing me letters and telling me, "Wow. I heard you might be gay, and I don't want to offend you, but I think I might be gay. I'm alone here in Iowa or Wisconsin."

Getting those letters was the most amazing thing. Those kids were alone and a lot of them were sad and afraid. And I realized a couple of years after that (the *Globe* photos) incident, that I had no interest in continuing to live a life where anybody held anything over my head, least of all something that I had finally realized was the good news about myself — the fact that I was gay.

Continued on page 52



...And Baby Makes Three

By Amy Paige

There are hundreds of children in Clark County that need a home. There is a crisis — the number of kids needing shelter care is up 29 percent from 3,513 in 2003 to 4,548 in 2004 and all the indications are that in 2005 this number will grow still higher. There is a way that the LGBT community can take a stand and help out. Gay and lesbian couples and single adults should think about becoming foster or adoptive parents.

Most won't because they are scared of the bureaucracy. Have no fear. We have researched the topic and can show, through the following guidelines for becoming a foster or adoptive parent, that there is a way for LGBT adults to provide loving homes. These guidelines are for all, gay or straight, single or couples.

Clark County is looking for 400 additional foster and adoptive parents by May 2006.

The following information will explain what gay, lesbian, straight and single adults need to do if they are thinking about becoming adoptive or foster parents.

First of all, in a relationship or not, this is a serious undertaking. It is very important to consider every detail of how fostering or adoptive caring will impact your life. Talk with your mate and find out if adoption or becoming a foster parent is something that you both want. This is a major life change for you but just think what it can mean for the child.

The qualifications for becoming a resource family (adoption or foster parenting) are:

1. You must be 21 years of age
2. You must be a legal US resident.
3. You must exercise sound judgment and decision-making.
4. You must be willing to be a team member.
5. You must possess skills necessary to live as a family group.
6. You must accept and respect each child as an individual.
7. You must have knowledge and understanding of childcare and problems of children.
8. You must participate in training as required.

You don't need to have a partner, but if you do and decide to adopt, only one applicant

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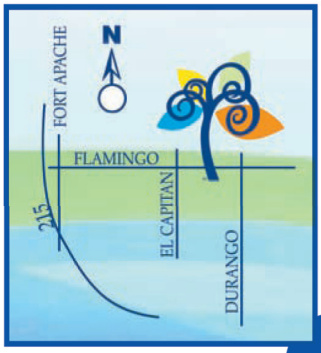
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Andrea

OUT WORDS

With every new generation and every advancement in the fight for equality, gays and lesbians come out of the closet at younger ages and with more pride, but not without having to overcome obstacles.

Four Las Vegas youth and young adults share their stories.

By Jon Afalla


Quist


Alexis


Chris

It intimidates. It invokes fear — fear of rejection, harassment and physical violence. It makes us doubt our beliefs. It even inspires feelings of shame and guilt.

But the glass isn't always half empty. It also relieves. It surprises us. It strengthens relationships. It's the comforting absolution we've all been longing for.

It's "coming out of the closet."

Although more gays and lesbians are coming out each year, it's still considered a highly daunting process. What keeps non-out people in the closet is the fear of a negative reaction they'll receive once they let others in on their secret, especially their family members. For some, that fear — that uncertainty — transforms into a deadbolt on their closet door.

For others, however, coming out isn't intimidating whatsoever. They pride themselves on honesty. They proclaim their homosexuality to their friends and family members because they're certain that whomever they tell will rally behind them with unconditional support.

So what makes coming out easier for some and hopeless for others? A lot of factors. Family dynamic. Religion. Strength of character. There isn't one universal indicator that measures the coming out degree of difficulty.

What *is* known is that coming out is different for everyone. It can yield positive and negative reactions. It can solidify a relationship or tear it apart. It can make a person doubt his or her religious convictions, even cause a relational rift in the church.

These four people share their inspiring coming out stories, revealing the difficulties they faced (or lack thereof), the emotions they cycled through and what coming out did for them.

THE YOUTH ACTIVIST

For 17-year-old Andrea Shirkey, there was never a specific moment where she had to tell her family or friends she was gay.

"Straight people don't have to say they're straight," Shirkey said. "Why do we have to say we're gay?"

The Silverado High School senior started dating a girl when she was only 14. Jumping right into a relationship without making any *I'm a homosexual* declarations seemed natural for her.

"I just kind of started dating," Shirkey said. "Everyone's known for a very long time."

The hardest part of the coming out process is that heterosexuals are ignorant about homosexuality and don't feel safe with it, Shirkey said. She added that the only negative reactions she received about her sexual preference came mainly from guys, whom she described as "not anyone of importance to me."

It never occurred to her that coming out to her family would be difficult because Shirkey's mother is gay. "I'm extremely open with my mom."

Shirkey laughs when people argue that homosexuality is a choice. "You are who you are," she said. "You don't *choose* to be discriminated agianst."

Shirkey is not a fan of religion, specifically the Bible. "The Bible is a huge fairytale — a best seller," she said. "No one knows who wrote it. It's based on faith. If it can be proven to me, if I can see it with my own eyes, then I can't say this religion is wrong."

The outspoken teen spends her senior days as president of her school's Gay-Straight Alliance. However, her assistant principal said that they are not allowed to label her club accordingly nor are Shirkey's club members allowed to brandish posters with gay labels (i.e. the pink triangle). "It's discrimination," she said. "Plain and simple."

LOSING MY RELIGION

Many religions preach one collective truth about being gay: don't be. The Mormon religion is especially unforgiving. Jeremy Quist, 24, found out the hard way.

The first person Quist came out to was the mission president of his church. Although it took him a while to approach his leader, Quist was surprised by his leader's reaction.

"He was nice," Quist said. "I got the impression it was something he had to deal with."

Once Quist outed himself to his leader, it wasn't easer for him to tell others. "Every time was very difficult," he said. "There were silences. They (leaders of his church) were trained not to react."

Quist knew he was gay since he was a sophomore in high school. "I looked at a guy and thought he was cute," he said. "I realized that I did it before."

Following his realization, he spent the next eight years trying to come out to his family. During this time, he felt hopeless, depressed and felt his feelings were wrong. After working up to it, he came out to his family at the beginning of June.

"There was a lot of crying, commiserating," Quist said. "My parents are of the school that I can change."

Once he came out to his church members and family, Quist felt emotionally relieved.

Quist can relate to the movie *Latter Days* by the reactions he received from his church regarding his sexuality. "The Mormon church is tied together," he said. "You can't go against the church. It's all or nothing."

Quist no longer associates with his church. "It has affected my spirituality," he said. "It's made my doubt my previous beliefs. I have to start from scratch."

Although no longer a Mormon, coming out

Continued on page 94

What started off as a march on Washington, D.C. in 1987, where hundreds of thousands of Americans rallied to support equal rights for gays and lesbians, has now transformed into an annual day of recognition and advocacy. Oct. 11 marks Human Rights Campaign's (HRC) National Coming Out Day (NCOD).

The aim behind NCOD is to empower the gay and lesbian community to acknowledge their homosexuality to themselves as well as others.

To commemorate NCOD, Las Vegas holds a small street festival annually on Paradise amid Gipsy, FreeZone, 8½, Hamburger Mary's and Suede (the "Fruit Loop"). This year, the NCOD celebration will extend to a weekend of events Oct. 14-16. The festivities kick off Friday, Oct. 14 with Lift-Off, a pre-party event at Goodtimes. The merriment continues Saturday, Oct. 15 with Orbit, the familiar free evening street festival. Finally, things wind down on Sunday, Oct. 16 with Landing, an afternoon T-Dance hosted at Blue Moon Resort.

Each year, NCOD fosters a particular theme. The theme this year is "Talk About It," which hopes to dispel coming out and homosexuality as a taboo topic. Mark Shields, director of HRC's Coming Out Project, an extension of NCOD, hopes that gays and lesbians will feel comfortable to talk freely about their lives each day.

One of NCOD's specific focuses is coming out to those we have professional relationships with. According to the HRC Web site, "a poll last year indicated three percent of the LGBT community are out to their doctors, and less than half our out to their bosses at work." Through advocacy and education, these alarming statistics will look less abysmal.

To join HRC, the largest LGBT advocacy organization that currently boasts about 600,000 members, or to learn more about coming out and NCOD, log onto the Web site at www.hrc.org. HRC lobbies against Congress and educates the public and the gay and lesbian community on LGBT issues.

For further details about the NCOD Weekend Festival, visit www.NCODVegas.com. **Q**











Fabulous Fakes

PART II

On September 16, 1985, at Riviera Hotel & Casino, the lights went up. The announcement was made: "Norbert Aleman presents *La Cage*."

The applause soared as Gypsy stepped onto the stage for the very first performance of *La Cage*. Joining Gypsy was Milton Berle, Uncle Milty of television fame. The show was booked for twelve weeks, however six nights of three shows a night was not enough to quell the huge appetite Las Vegas had for this cutting-edge show.

It is easy to forget, in these more liberated days, just how sensational and different a show dedicated to female impersonation actually was back then. The demand was so great the show had to go to seven nights a week (21 shows) for nine months. *La Cage* is not just a Las Vegas phenomenon. At one point Norbert Aleman had different companies simultaneously performing the show in Atlantic City (14 years), Aruba (8 years), Tokyo (1 year) as well as in Las Vegas, now for 20 years.

In this second part of the 20th anniversary story we want to pay tribute to the people who make *La Cage* what it is. Let's be clear about what *La Cage* is not. It is not a high-end drag show, nor is it about transgenderism. *La Cage* is the pinnacle of female impersonation. Never believe a drag queen if she tells you she would not give her eyeteeth to be a member of the cast.

La Cage, above all else, is a cast of supremely talented character actors. All the cast members spend hours of blood, sweat and tears trying to create that perfect illusion of their alter-egos. After 20 years we have seen — and continue to see — the best. Here is a visual treat as we pay tribute to *La Cage* past and present.

Asked for a comment at this momentous time in *La Cage*'s run Norbert Aleman said "I was proud and flattered to be involved for the last 40 years of my life with the best female impersonators from all over the world past present and future. After the millions of people who have seen and loved *La Cage*, I feel, having the show play in Las Vegas for 20 years, I've really accomplished something!" **Q**

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WE DIDN'T START THE FIRE

REMEMBERING GAY VEGAS PIONEER MARGE JACQUES

By Richard Davis

Community pioneer Marge Jacques settled in Las Vegas in the late '50s. She tells her story in a six-hour oral history given in 1998 to local historian Dennis McBride for the Las Vegas Gay Archives and preserved along with many of her papers, photos and mementos in Special Collections at UNLV's Lied Library.

When Jacques arrived in Las Vegas, she said the only gay bar in town was Max and Mary's (later Maxine's) out on Nellis at Charleston, then dirt roads. The bar was a cinder block building with a dirt floor.

Jacques found work as a cocktail waitress. At the time it was illegal for a woman to be a bartender in Clark County, and that's how she got the idea of opening Le Café. Jacques said, "If a woman owned her own bar she could go behind the bar and that's how come I got my license."

Le Café opened on January 16, 1970 on the site of the old Black Magic on the southwest corner of Tropicana and Paradise. "All the stars came," Jacques recalled; Liberace, Joan Rivers, Shirley Maclaine, Debbie Reynolds and Sammy Davis, Jr. "of course, because he was a good friend of mine."

Show critic Hanford Searl told McBride, "Le Café…was just glitter and glamour." But he added, "Le Café was a community. Marge cared about us…You felt comfortable there. You could come out there."

In the 1970s it was still dangerous for someone to be seen in a gay bar. Jacques recalled gays and lesbians were "paranoid that someone would see them come into Le Café and they would be fired." She said, "When I first opened, it was against the law for two people of the same sex to dance together. They could disco, but not slow dance. I could have been closed down."

Jacques decided to challenge the law, and she called the County Commission and announced, "I'm going to allow dancing in my bar." She told David "DeDe" Weinman, her bartender, and Bill, her security guard, "Okay, you guys, go out and slow dance. Everybody looked at me and I said, 'Okay, Marilyn [her lover], this'll be the first time anybody's danced on my floor,' and so we danced, then everybody started dancing."

Jacques cousin Aline Jacques of Boulder City said nothing could stop Jacques from "believing in who she was and what she had to do. She wouldn't out anyone, but she encouraged people to be themselves…She was always fighting for someone's rights." McBride wrote that it was "through Marge

Continued on page 63


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GAY GUMSHOE

Continued from page 43

Isn't it true that the production company you own with Bobby Gant, "mythgarden," was founded, at least in part, to promote the stories of LGBT people and their quest for equal rights and acceptance in this country?

It's true. My company, "mythgarden," has a mission, which is dedicated to, one story at a time, helping our little brothers and sisters-the next generation of gays and lesbians, bisexual and transgender kids to love themselves just that much more. Hopefully that next generation may not have to carry around those fragments of shame that I still see represented in myself from time to time. Because we're able to stand up for ourselves, especially with the advent of gay television-three networks coming on to reach our community in a stronger way than we ever have been able to before-to tell our stories.

Amen. It's amazing, isn't it, how different things are today?

You bet. Things are good.

Chad, what is the state of the LGBT community in the United States today, in light of the present administration and the anti-gay initiatives that have been popping up all over the place? Are we in a strong position now, in your opinion?

You know what, David; in the big picture we are in an amazing place. I mean, no civil rights movement in history has moved as fast or gained as much success as we've gained in a relatively short amount of time since Stonewall. It's really incredible when you match this movement against so many others. What we've achieved is phenomenal. Yet, in truth, this is a scary time.

We've lived in darkness and shadow in the years that this administration and its policies have been guiding our nation. However, this is a community that does better when the odds are stacked against it. What we did in light of the AIDS crisis; facing that plague, building a civil rights movement in the midst of that kind of loss is extraordinary to me. There are heroes in this community whose stories are yet to be sung, and part of what I hope to be able to do with our company is to be able to tell those stories so that we can all learn and be that much prouder of who we are as a community.

Is there a lesson for the community to learn in light of the anti-marriage amendments that have cropped up in many states with many to be voted on this year?

Although it is frightening, whenever I see fear exhibited like that, then I know where we have to fight, I know where the light needs to be shined. So, if we can see it, we can fight it.

Do any of the major networks have plans to buy the rights to any of the films produced by "mythgarden?" Or will they all be aired on cable, Chad?

The films that we're making at "mythgarden," each will be sold individually. It's too soon to tell where or how they will be exhibited. Certainly our goal is for as large a distribution as possible.

We believe there is a really viable middle ground between the gay and lesbian market and the straight or "other than gay or lesbian" film-going audience if we just tell good enough stories. Most of the films are not limited just to television. They will have domestic distribution in theaters before they ever make it to television. Certainly they should make it to the DVD market.

Chad, what, in your opinion, is the biggest mistake the LGBT community has made in dealing with right-wing religious zealots and their constituents?

That's a good question. I think that we tend, too often out of fear, to want to turn this into good guys and bad guys. While making a film in Panama, I lived and worked closely with some very conservative Christians, who clearly — knowing who I am, and what my journey has been and what my mission is — did not view me as "the good guy." I think in many instances I was viewed as a representation of "the enemy." But I really learned from that experience what a useless concept that was.

I came to work there with a gaggle-full of pre-conceived notions about who they were and they of me, and that created a bit of an impasse. Then we started to communicate. At the end of the day we're talking about love. If we can just agree that love cannot be outside of God or be outside of goodness, then we've got something to work with. What we need is for everybody to respect (not necessarily believe in) everybody else's beliefs.

Chad, if you could send a message to all the people out there, our LGBT family in particular, who are still struggling with the issues of coming out and issues of selfesteem so common to our plight, what would you say?

I know what it feels like to be afraid. In my journey I've discovered that there's only one thing that successfully battles fear and that's love. Love turns fear to shadow. I have walked through a lot of fear and a lot of darkness in my lifetime, but I spend a lot of time in the light today. Know that you're not alone, we are in this together, and that's what this community is all about. **Q**

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MY NAME IS THORN

By
Homer Marrs

My name is Thorn. Damien Thorn. I am the Antichrist.

And I'm a homosexual.

I'm not sure what I should start with first. I feel like I've got a lot on my plate for a fourteen-year-old. Granted, I'm no ordinary fourteen-year-old, in fact my age may be irrelevant because I've been foretold by prophecies eternal, but everyone thinks I'm fourteen. Except my step-dad, Rick (the Dick), who treats me like I'm six. I'm so glad I'm the manifestation of an ancient evil and not that dickhead's actual son.

I suppose I should explain the whole Antichrist thing, by which I mean my destiny, first. They say the Lord works in mysterious ways, but I've come to realize the Devil works in even mysteriouser ones. I don't question him, since he did choose me as the vessel of his incarnation, but I admit his method of revealing my true identity to me was a little weird and embarrassing.

It happened two weeks ago at Jamie Newland's sleepover. We were watching horror movies and Jamie's dad said we should watch *The Omen*. I think now Jamie's dad might be my False Prophet, but I haven't finished reading the Book of Revelations all the way so I'm not sure yet. (Man, that book is weird! I wonder if there's a *Cliff's Notes*.)

We watched the movie pretty late so Jamie, Scot Goodhart and Geoff with a "G" all fell asleep halfway through. I see now how that was all part of Lucifer's plan for me so we could have quality father/son time. I stayed up until *The Omen* ended, and then I fell asleep, and then the vision came. It was The Prince of Darkness, but he wasn't scary or anything. He kind of looked like Russell Crowe with his shirt off.

"Alan, my son. Alan McAlister, I have chosen you," said Mephistopheles. "I arranged this night for a reason: to tell you who you truly are. You are Damien Thorn, Alan. You are the Antichrist."

Here I would have said something but I was both speechless and chained to a wall in my dream. Also I had on a muzzle (my dreams are weird). Being in conversation with a supreme evil is kind of intimidating, especially when he looks like Russell Crowe with his shirt off.

"I arranged this night for a reason, Damien. Your friends are my gift to you. You must kiss them each on the lips, except Geoff with a 'G' if you don't want to. You must do this for me, my son. Then you will unite the world and ready it for my dominance."

I thought it sounded funny, but who am I to argue with The Desolate One? I awoke pretty quickly and took a few deep breaths to take in what'd just happened. I looked at Jamie, Scot, and Geoff with a "G" and thought about kissing them all. I paused a minute because Geoff is pretty dorky-looking until I remembered Satan telling me I could skip him if I wanted. Then I thought, "Hell, if I'm the Antichrist, I'd better get a move on! I've got a world to unite."

I leaned over and kissed Jamie on the lips. I think I was too excited at discovering my enormous destiny because I kissed him pretty fast and bumped his head when I did it, which woke him up. Then he had to make a big scene about it. "Alan! What the Hell, man?! Did you just kiss me? Scot, Geoff, wake up! Alan tried to kiss me on the lips!"

I went home after that. I can't wait 'til I rule the world and trick shitheads like Jamie into thinking I have any intention other than to thrust his whiny soul into Hell, where — surprise, surprise — I'll also rule. He's so screwed. I'm never giving back his Beck CD.

I'm still learning to accept my heritage, but it gets easier every day. Like in gym class last Friday when I tripped over the obstacle bar on the track field and fell down and broke my glasses, I thought, "Man, who cares about this earthly crap? I'm the Antichrist! I can trip over the obstacle bar if I want to. They can laugh all they want. Mortals."

Now there's also the issue of my gayness. I guess I've known about this all along, like I've always known I wasn't Rick the Dick's real son and that an unholy destiny awaited me. But first is the question of if I should tell people. It's kind of hard, because on one hand I don't want people to treat me differently for being queer, but at the same time I know I'm going to lead these foolish humans "from out of the east" after I "rise from the eternal sea," so who cares? The dawn of the Armageddon has to be bigger than who I sleep with, right?

I guess I'll have to sit on it awhile. My dad, The Morning Star, will come to me again soon, and then I'll get it straightened out. Maybe in my dream tonight. Maybe as a young Kiefer Sutherland, with his shirt off. **Q**



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—Photos by Angelia Marlett











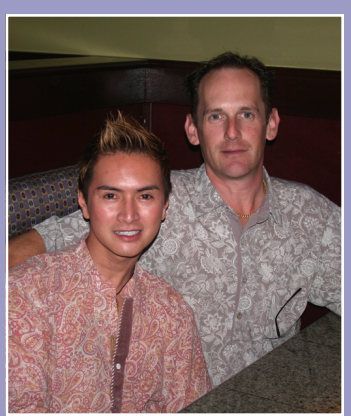
NGRA Vestal Virgin Party on Saturday, September 17 at the Spotlight Lounge. Entertainers included Valerie James, Miss Frankie and The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

—Photos by Paul Scott

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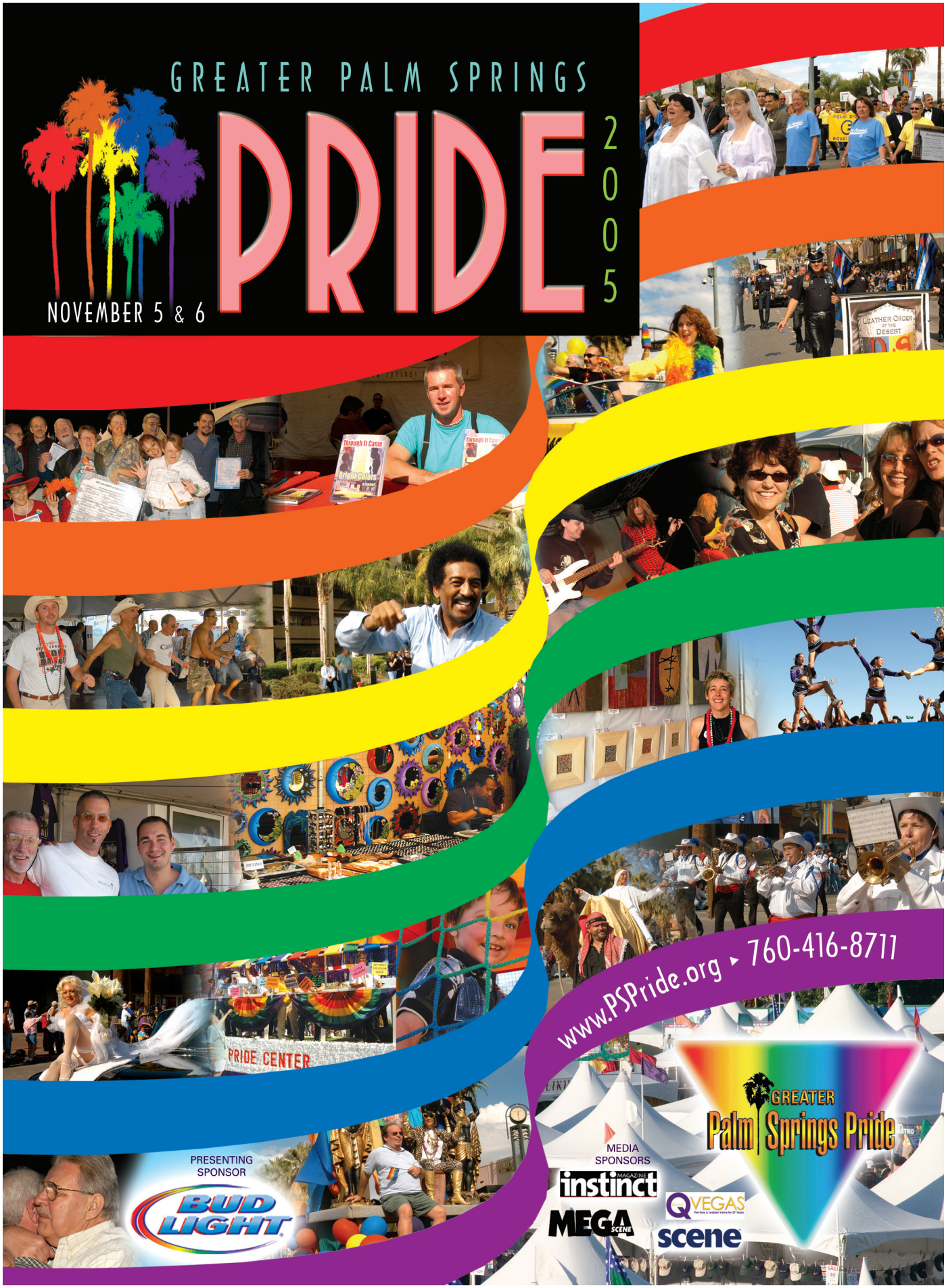


QVegas Business Social on Aug. 24 at the Melting Pot.

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WE DIDN'T START THE FIRE

Continued from page 50

Jacques and Le Café that the Las Vegas gay community first found its political voice."

Jacques helped to found the local chapter of the National Organization of Women and as a precinct captain attended the Democratic state convention in 1976. Grant Sawyer, former Nevada governor and chairman of the National Democratic Party told Jacques, "You can't be radical in this state or they will squash you, and that includes your bar."

When Le Café was destroyed by arson on Aug. 24, 1978, Jacques said, "Everybody had their own ideas about who, what, when," ncluding speculation that Jacques had set the fire herself. But she had nothing to gain since she had allowed the bar's fire insurance to lapse. The fire was also rumored to be the result of rivalry between Jacques and another gay bar owner, although no hard evidence was found.

When Jacques went on to her next big venture, the rivalry followed. Hired as manager by the owner of the Village Station, she helped transform the bar into the still-popular Gipsy. But almost immediately she faced a challenge to her liquor license through a "neighborhood" petition alleging drug dealing and homosexual activity in the club's parking lot, a petition that Jacques swore was distributed by her rival. Jacques persevered in that battle, but later lost a bid to purchase Gipsy outright.

Although Jacques attempted to revive the old Le Café on Desert Inn Road in 1983, she said, "It was another era, it was the '80s" and the new club soon closed.

"Even when I had [the first] Le Café, some people were dying of 'gay' cancer," Jacques remembered. In the '80s, AIDS devastated the Las Vegas gay community. "At least 200 people I know, all my friends, are dead," Jacques said. Her long-time friend Dr. Jerry Cade said that when Jerry Guerin, owner of Gelo's, became ill, Jacques took him in. Although Guerin had been Jacques' rival, Aline Jacques said, "She would help almost anyone, whether she liked them or not, just because it was the right thing to do."

Aline Jacques said, "Marge was the type of person you'd want more on your side than not, because she was very passionate." McBride said, "Marge was famous for her temper." Yet her cousin added, "Something that didn't show on the surface, she was deeply spiritual. The last year of her life, even before she knew she had cancer, she was on a pathway of forgiveness, finding peace."

Marge Jacques died in 2001. **Q**

The author would like to thank Dennis McBride for contributing to this article and Su Kim Chung and the staff in Special Collections at the Lied Library at UNLV for their research assistance.



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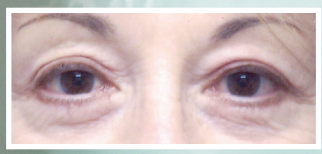
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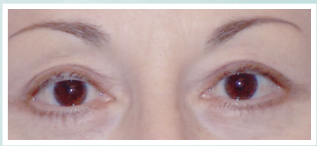
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PLINER MEETS VEGAS

By Nick Filler
Fashion Director

In 1989, Donald J. Pliner began his signature personal collection of footwear and personal accessories. 15 years later, he has opened the doors for his jet setting customers at the famed Forum Shops in Caesars Palace.

Today the Donald J. Pliner collection consists of a full line of luxury comfort footwear for both men and women including such innovative items as leather clothing, handbags, belts and the Friends of BabyDoll Pliner Collection for pets. This one-time shoe designer has stayed true to his roots while reaching beyond the limits of high fashion.

The Fall 2005 men's collection brings exciting new combinations of various hair calf and newspaper-distressed hair calf prints for both men and women. Tapered toe characteristics mixed with hidden surprise elements include improved soles for added comfort. Your furry friends will compliment your style on all your travels in haute couture puppy fashion.

"The Friends of BabyDoll Pliner Collection, for pets 20 pounds and under takes its inspiration from my new men's and women's collection," says Pliner. Your pets will always be dressed for success in matching materials, colors and trims.

Three years ago after the loss of their first child, Donald and his wife were inspired by BabyDoll (their much loved dog) to create the BabyDoll Pliner Collection. So, to paraphrase Frank Sinatra, you and your pampered pooch can "float down to Peru" in style.

Playful as ever, the Friends of BabyDoll Pliner Collection features jackets with religious influences and western flair, matching color and materials from the men's collection. The collection will make sure your furry sidekick will always be noticed in looks boasting embroidery interlacing and of course puppy comfort. Carriers (FAA-approved for pets up to 20 pounds), leashes and harnesses also reflect colors and material from the Spring 2006 collection, which reflects magical influences from across the globe and the mystique of the oceans depths.

Pliner is known for his comfortable and fashion forward designs worn by such celebrities as Justin Timberlake, Carmen Electra, Beyonce Knowles, Mark Wahlberg and Shaquille O'Neal (size 22!!), to name just a few.

Enjoy the adventures his Spring collection creates for you. For each individual man, woman and furry friend, Spring 2006 will meet your every whim in true Pliner cutting edge style, grace and signature comfort.

Visit the Donald J. Pliner store in the new expansion of the Forum Shops at Caesars Palace, or visit www.donaldjpliner.com. **Q**

Qloset Qase

Photographer **Nick Coletsos**

Hair & Fashion Stylist **Jason Bennett** *courtesy of eNVy Artists*

Make-up **Jessi Pagel** *for MAC Cosmetics courtesy of eNVy Artists*

Model **Benjamin Tannis** *courtesy of eNVy Models LA & Las Vegas*

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Benjamin wears a Pink Rhinestone Tiger T-shirt by **Ed Hardy** ($98), Red Embroidered Shirt by **Couture** ($168), Black Pinstripe Jacket by **Artine** ($385), Stone Washed Denim Jean by **Parasuco** ($185), Leather Belt with Eagle Buckle by **Tobacco Road** ($98).





Benjamin wears a Pink Rock-n-Roll Polo by **RIV** ($98), Black Inside-Out Sweatshirt by **J & Company** and Brown Leather Belt with Skull Buckle by **ISIMAGE** ($188).



Benjamin wears an Orange T-shirt by **Dragon Fly Fiebre Oriental** ($48), Distressed Leather Jacket by **Couture** ($395) and Jeans by **Division E** ($89) with a Studded Belt by **ISIMAGE** ($190).


CINCO PESOS



Benjamin wears a Black & Red Peso Print T-shirt by **RIV** ($58), Plaid Jacket with Red Racing Stripe by **Parasuco** ($325) and Patchwork Jeans by **1921** ($225) accessorized by a Black Belt with Cross Buckle by **Tobacco Road** ($98) and Blue Rhinestone Tiger Cap by **Ed Hardy** ($125).

ON THE RACK: Studded Jean Jacket by **Parasuco** ($255), Yellow T-shirt by **Sistem Five** ($128), Black Striped Shirt by **Messori** ($248), Purple Tie by **Gianfranco Ferre** ($115), Shear Orange Striped Shirt by **Couture** ($138), Pink Rhinestone NYC Skull Cap by **Ed Hardy** ($125) and Silver Pants by **Messori** ($350).

THE EYES HAVE IT

If you think tweed is only for jackets and stained glass is just for windows, think again. This season, the best of fashion and art gets translated into eyewear, bringing dramatic, fresh styling to this trendy accessory. "New technology and materials have given eyewear designers 'carte blanche' with creativity, and the results are amazing," says Rene Soltis, optician and spokesperson for the Vision Council of America (VCA). Keep your eye on these tantalizing eyewear trends:

Natural Attractions

This fall there's a decidedly natural mood showing up in eyewear, conveyed through rich tones, real wood and nature-inspired materials. Frames offer sleek styling and ultra-thin, laminated wood temples in such exotics as mahogany and rosewood. Wood offers men a great new look and exudes an air of rugged sophistication. Other trends that pick up the natural groove include decorative temples (arms of the frame) in the shape of banana leaf or etched with a fern motif. And, gorgeous hand stitched leather frames in sumptuous shades of blushing beige, warm brown and rich burgundy hug the face in luxury.



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BY MARCOLIN



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Less Bling, More Zing

The obvious bling of the season past has changed its glittering spots, evolving into an updated mix of elegant studs, crystals and precious metals. Studs, once reserved for motorcycle and heavy metal gear, have made their way into the world of fashion. Classic black sunglasses with a splash of tiny silver studs proves that subtle can be sexy. Stones and crystal that are sprinkled on frames epitomize bling this fall. Metals show a softer side this season too in matte and brushed gold, silver and chrome.

Rimless: Sleek and Sophisticated

Rimless styles have a huge following; especially those who prefer to keep a low profile. One can be subtle yet stylish with this new crop of sleek, rimless frames, both in colorful plastic and metal. Along with rimless tops or bottoms, some of the latest frames put a new twist on semi-rimless with a free floating or suspended lens effect. Eye catching versions this fall include sharp geometrics with the top rim in colors like purple or green, or a sharp two-tone style with a stepped down rimless top, a' la reading glasses.



ESSENCE
BY LANTIS

For more information on eyewear fashion, function and fit, please visit your optometrist or contact Dr. Robert Wlodek at Optical Effects, 702-453-EYES (3937).

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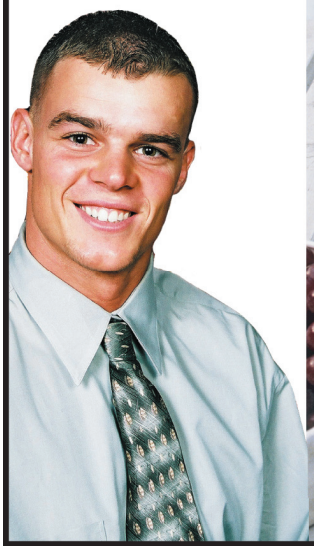
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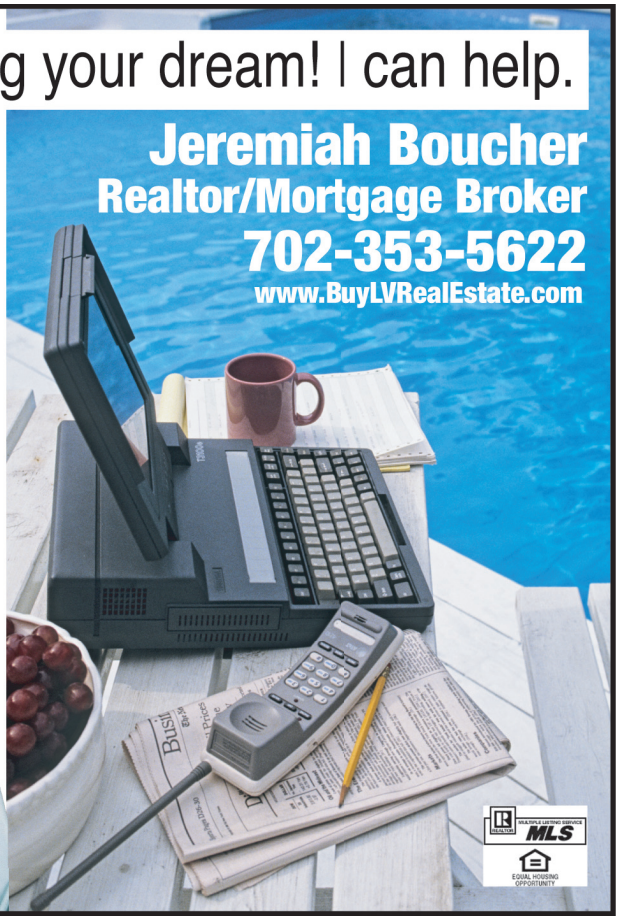
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BACKDOOR 1415 E. Charleston Ave., 385-2018 (Latin)(D)(DJ)(G,ATM)(M) 24/7	Mexican Cowboys, Beer Bust 8pm	2-4-1 Price Is Right Happy Hour 10am-Noon	2-4-1 Price Is Right Happy Hour 10am-Noon	2-4-1 Price Is Right Happy Hour 10am-Noon 2-4-1 Happy Hour 4-6pm	2-4-1 Price Is Right Happy Hour 10am-Noon 2-4-1 Happy Hour 4-6pm	2-4-1 Price Is Right Happy Hour 10am-Noon Dance Party w/DJ Papi Chulo & DJ XTC 10pm Latin Seduction Night 2am	Dance Party w/DJ Papi Chulo & DJ XTC 10pm Gelmis & Her Girls Drag Show 2am
BADLANDS 953 E. Sahara Ave. 792-9262 (C,J)(BB,G,P,EV,ATM)(M) 24/7	$3.50 Beer Bust 9pm-12am	2 for 1 Domestic Beer & Well Drinks 4-7pm	2 for 1 Domestic Beer & Well Drinks 4-7pm	2 for 1 Domestic Beer & Well Drinks 4-7pm	2 for 1 Domestic Beer & Well Drinks 4-7pm	$5 Liquor Bust 7pm-12am	$5 Beer Bust 7pm-12am
CELEBRITY 201 N. 3rd St., 384-CLUB (D)(DJ,EV)(M/F)	Call for details	Call for details	Call for details	Call for details	Call for details	Call for details	Call for details
EAGLE 3430 E. Tropicana Ave., 458-8662 (D,L)(DJ,J)(BB,G,P,EV,ATM)(M) 24/7	Call for details	Monday Night Football w/Landon Free Shot w/Touchdown	Call for details	Underwear Night 10pm-3am	Call for details	Underwear Night 10pm-3am	Underwear Night 10pm-3am
FLEX 4371 W. Charleston Ave., 385-FLEX (D)(DJ,J)(G,EV,AGM)(M/F) 24/7	L Word Movie Night 6pm	'80's Night 9pm Male Strippers 11pm	Tiffany St. Jon Drag Show 10pm Male Strippers midnight	Male Strippers & DJ K 10pm	Maggie Albisani 8:30-11:30pm	Miss Frankie Drag Show with Amateur Strippers 10pm	Maggie Albisani 8:30-11pm Hip-Hop Night midnight $5 Cover 21+ Only
FREEZONE 610 E. Naples Ave., 794-2300 (D,R)(DJ)(EV,ATM)(M/F) 24/7	Gay Karaoke	Gay Karaoke	Ladies Night, Lick-her-bust and Beer Bust 8pm	Sexy Message Board w/Toni James	Boyz Night, Free Beer Bust w/shot purchase 8pm	2-4-1 Martini Social 5-9pm; Queens of Las Vegas Drag Show 10pm; Dance Party with Live DJ 11pm	Queens of Las Vegas Drag Show 10pm Dance Party with Live DJ 11pm
GIPSY 4605 Paradise Rd., 731-1919 (D)(DJ)(EV,ATM)(M/F)	Illusions Cabaret 10pm & 1am Dancing w/DJ Chris Adams	Noche Latina w/Papi Chulo $5 Beer Bust	Boys' Night with $5 Beer Bust and $2 Well Drinks Go-Go Boys midnight	Totally 80's w/DJ Keoni Miller Party Patrol	Seduction with Shannel 1:30am Dancing w/DJ Chris Adams	Dance Party w/DJ Chris Adams; $5 Beer Bust Go-Go Boys midnight	Dance Party w/DJ Chris Adams Go-Go Boys midnight
GOODTIMES 1775 E. Tropicana, Ave., 736-9494 (D)(DJ,J,LM)(BB,G,P,EV,ATM) 24/7	Bloody Mary Specials 8am-4pm	Liquor Bust 11pm-4am	Martini Night 2 for 1 Martinis 4-12pm	Karaoke 10pm	Military Appreciation $10 Liquor Bust w/Military ID	Flash Back Fridays midnight	DJ Jonathan 10pm
HAMBURGER MARY'S 4503 Paradise Rd., 735-4400 (D,R)(G,EV,ATM)(M/F)	You Call It Karaoke with Sheila 9pm-1am	Pajama Karaoke with Sheila 9pm-1am	Aloha Karaoke 9pm-1am	Trivia w/Missy Boqu 7pm Boys Night 9pm	Lipp Sync w/Toni James midnight	Liquid Lounge 5-10pm Drag It Out midnight	Glow Party Club Pride Dancing & Go-Go Boys 10pm
KRAVE Corner of Harmon Ave. & The Strip, 836-0830, (D)(DJ)(ATM)	closed	Reggaeton 11pm $5 cover	Happy Hour 6pm Planeta Macho Latin Night 11pm $5 cover	Lounge Lick Top 40 11pm $5 cover	Kream Hip Hop Night 11pm $5 cover	Celebrations Fridays $5/members $20/nonmembers Krave Men of Vegas midnight	Girl Bar 8pm-3am Zumanity 2nd Anniversary 11pm
LAS VEGAS LOUNGE 900 E. Karen Ave. Ste. C-108, 737-9350 (D)(DJ)(T) 24/7	Transgender Go-Go Dancers 10pm	Transgender Go-Go Dancers 10pm	Transgender Go-Go Dancers 10pm	Transgender Go-Go Dancers 10pm	Transgender Go-Go Dancers 10pm	Transgender Go-Go Dancers 10pm	Transgender Go-Go Dancers 10pm
SNICK'S PLACE 3rd St. off Las Vegas Blvd., 385-9298 (D)(J)(G,P,EV,ATM)(M) 24/7	call for details	Happy Hour 2-4pm, 2-4am $5 Beer & $6 Liquor Bust 9pm-12am	Happy Hour 2-4pm, 2-4am	Happy Hour 2-4pm, 2-4am	Happy Hour 2-4pm, 2-4am	Happy Hour 2-4pm, 2-4am	$5 Beer & $6 Liquor Bust 9pm-12am
SPOTLIGHT LOUNGE 957 E. Sahara Ave., 696-0202 (D)(DJ,J)(G,P,EV,ATM)(M) 24/7	$5 Beer Bust - Free Pizza 4-7pm	2-4-1 9pm-12am	Scrubs Night 2 for 1 drinks 4-11pm	Spotlight T-shirt $1 wine or domestic beer 4-12pm	Liquor Bust 8-11pm $5	Leather Night - Free Pizza	Jock Night 12-3am
SUEDE 4640 S. Paradise Rd., 791-DINE (R)(LM)(EV)(M/F)	Tim Tucker (second Sundays) 11pm Maggie Albassani (every other Sunday) 8pm Valarie James (every other Sunday) 8pm	closed	$2 Wells & $1 Drafts 10pm-midnight Karaoke w/Shelia 11pm-2am	$2 Wells & $1 Drafts 10pm-midnight Karaoke w/Shelia 11pm-2am	$2 Wells & $1 Drafts 10pm-midnight Karaoke w/Shelia 11pm-2am	$2 Wells & $1 Drafts 10pm-midnight Pianist Peter Radd 8-11pm Playgirlz w/Shannel 1:30am	$2 Wells & $1 Drafts 10pm-midnight Pianist Peter Radd 8-11pm Starlett w/Shannel 1:30am

DESC C=Country, D=Dance, L=Leather, R=Restaurant • **EXTRAS** BB=Beer Bust, G=Gaming, EV=Events Nightly, ATM=ATM
MUSIC DJ=DJ, J=Jukebox, LM=Live Music • **GENDER** M=Male, F=Female, M/F=Mixed, T=Trans

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THE BRAVERY — Michael Zakarin (guitar), John Conway (keyboard), Anthony Burulcich (drums), Mike H (bass) and Sam Endicott (lead vocals)

brave new world

By Arjan Timmermans

Killer-esque new band The Bravery set to take over Caesars Palace and the universe

The Bravery is one of the hottest new bands to emerge onto the music scene this year. The spunky New York five-piece is succesfully riding the wave of post-punk disco with a combination of electric guitars and synths. Think an updated version of Duran Duran in the vein of the Killers, Duran Duran and the Strokes. Yeah, it is a little crunchy, but the Bravery's sound is surprisingly fresh and downright sexy.

The Bravery shows off their sizzle when they perform at Caesar's Palace on Oct. 15. *QVegas* spoke with Sam Endicot, the enigmatic lead singer of the band.

Many describe the Bravery in terms of the looks, the haircuts and the eyeliner. Does that bother you?

It is funny because I never expected it would be that way. We never saw ourselves as some sort of glamour band. We're all about spending a lot of time on the music and trying to make the songs as good as they can get. There's nothing wrong with having style as long as there is substance too.

How do you feel about the comparisons with Duran Duran and New Order?

No artist likes to be compared to others. You always think you're special and unique and all that bullshit. But at least they are comparing us to good bands instead of shitty ones. The Duran Duran comparison is my least favorite, because I don't like that band at all.

How did you get to the point of incorporating electronic elements in your rock music?

John [the Bravery's keyboard player] and I went to school together and have known each other for a very long time. He really turned me on to keyboards. I started thinking how cool it would be to create a band that could take it back to the original spirit of rock and roll, which is about getting people together, shake it up and bring some energy into your life. I want people to come to our shows and leave with more energy by injecting passion into people. So how do you bring it back to that feeling in way that has not been done already. There this whole world of synthetic sounds out right now that are so cheap that you can just throw it into your garage with your guitars and drums. Then, with your shitty iMac you got this whole new world of sounds. I like to think of it as the future of garage rock.

You are becoming quite popular with gay indie gentlemen…

I guess.

How do you feel about that?

Yeah. It is interesting. The first cover we had was a gay publication. Our whole thing is not to appeal to a specific niche or group. It is all about doing what do and we love what we do. You just hope that everybody out there has a chance to hear it. That's why we play all over the world to get our music out there. We're psyched about everybody that is down with our music.

What is your opinion about gay marriage?

First let me say that we are not a political band. You really need to know what you're talking about. There's nothing more painful then a band that pretends to know when they really have no clue what they're talking about. I don't want to speak for the band about that. My personal opinion is that you have to look at it from two sides. There is a religious aspect and a legal aspect. And I think people are getting these two confused. From a legal perspective there are no reasons why gays should not be able to get married. I think many religious people are getting it confused and feel threatened. They are two different issues and as far as I'm concerned church and state are separated (. . .) I think religious people feel that their religion is tempered with. But I believe some of their old standards need to be interpreted in a way that makes sense today. **Q**



The Bravery's self-titled debut album

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MEMBER NAMB



SKIN TO LAST A LIFETIME

By Don Jones

Your skin is your body's largest organ, yet many guys take better care of their stomachs than their skin. Face it, though: As a gay man, it's your responsibility to treat your skin as least as well as a metrosexual would, right? That's particularly true here in Las Vegas, where a dry climate, ridiculously intense sun, and dusty environment can take a real toll on your skin. I spoke with Kahren Bellamy, the manager at the local Kiehl's store, for some "guy skin care" advice.

WASH. Seems obvious, but no soap! "Soap can strip your skin of its natural oils," she says. The idea is to get the oils in balance, not remove them. Use a gentle, daily cleanser that's appropriate for your skin type.

SCRUB. 2-3 times a week — again, depending on your skin type — you need to exfoliate. This not only makes your skin look baby's-butt fresh, but also removes the dead skin that can cause ingrown hairs. For the toughest skin, Kiehl's offers a pineapple and papaya scrub with fruit enzymes. It's like a home chemical peel and does a great job.

SHAVE. Put the Barbasol away — what you need is a rich, creamy treatment. "A richer cream is more lubricating," Kahren says, "and you'll use less of it to get a closer, more comfortable shave." Be careful just to use a dab, though, or you'll find your razor clogging.

TONE. The idea is to close your pores so that subsequent products don't clog them. Avoid alcohol or witch hazel preparations, which can irritate; an herbal toner can include anti-inflammatory agents that help sooth your skin after shaving. "And shave slower!" Kahren advises. "Guys try to shave in like 20 seconds. Take shorter, slower strokes and you won't irritate sensitive skin as much."

MOISTURIZE. This doesn't need to be a fussy step. In fact, Kiehl's and other manufacturers offer moisturizers that include SPF sun protection, which is what you should be using for one-step skin care in Las Vegas. Select a product that meets both your skin type *and* your lifestyle. Outdoors all day? SPF 40, please. Working in an office? Something lighter, perhaps, with just a bit of SPF to protect you in the car. "You can layer moisturizers," Kahren says, "although generally the SPF product should go on first." But if you're in a hurry, pick an all-in-one product.

REFRESH. After work, or even at lunch, freshen up with a skin energizer. "Our Facial Fuel is exclusively for men, and it helps wake up your skin and keep you looking fresh."

WASH AND TONE. Before bedtime, hit the face again with a non-detergent cleanser. Your face picks up all kinds of crap over the course of a day, including stray smoke and dust particles, oil from your fingers, and just think about what was on the phone handset. Get it off. Get the toner in there again to finish off and close your pores.

MOISTURIZE. "Nighttime is when your face repairs itself," Kahren says, "and you can usually use a heavier, richer product." She suggests starting with an appropriate moisturizer, and, if you're trying to repair fine lines in your skin, a firming crème. Then use an eye cream on the delicate tissue underneath your eye—"an eye cream is the *only* thing that should ever go in this area," she says. "Your middle and ring fingers are the softest, so use these to gently pat the cream on just under the eye, working in toward the nose." That'll keep the skin from being stretched during application, a faux pas which leads to the very fine lines you're trying to avoid.

As necessary, use an herbal spot treatment to gently remove blemishes. Or, for the nuclear option, try Kiehl's nasty-smelling drawing paste. Yes, it looks ugly and smells worse, but it'll soak up a zit in just a few hours, leaving you fresh for the ball. Or club. **Q**

Bring this article into the local Kiehl's store (located in the Forum Shops at Caesar's Palace) all this month for a free skin consultation and enough free products to start your new skin care regime.


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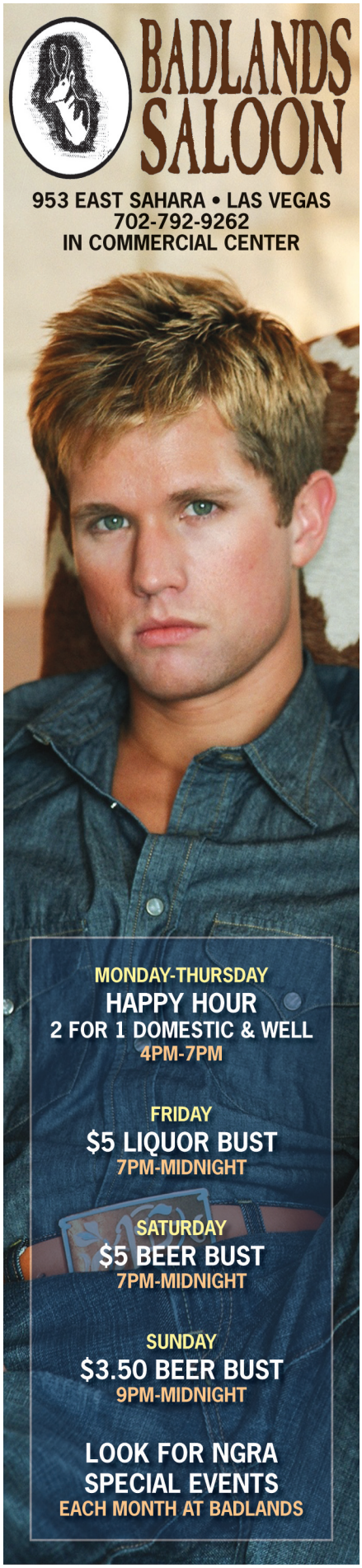
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SIZE QUEENS

A LOOK INTO PENILE ENHANCEMENT SURGERY

By Ali Azimi-Sadjadi

Gentlemen, the time has come to answer that age-old question: does size really matter? More often than not, the honest answer is YES. Whether gay or straight, black or white, the aesthetic obsession for a larger penis is one that holds no discriminatory preferences. Men across the world have attempted to change what genetics has bestowed upon them with the use of vacuum pumps, herbal growth pills and supplements. Sadly, none of these options yield any permanent changes in penile size. The quest for a larger penis has led some of these men to undergo a cosmetic penile enhancement procedure known as phalloplasty.

By definition, phalloplasty is a permanent penile shaft enhancement procedure that increases the length and thickness of the penile shaft. Changes are never made to the head of the penis. The lengthening portion of the procedure is accomplished by the use of a laser, while girth (depending on the surgeon's technique) is attained with either a Free Fat Transfer (FFT), Dermal Fat Grafts (DFG) or AlloDerm.

"About 90 percent of my patients get both lengthening and thickening done," said Dr. Stephen X. Guinta, a pioneer in the aesthetic surgery world. Guinta invented the use of the laser and the microscope in phalloplasty surgery, and with over 2500 successful procedures to his name, remains one of the most sought after penile enhancement surgeons in the world. His going rate for both procedures? A mere $6,900 plus an additional $500 fee for anesthesia.

According to Guinta, the enlargement procedure (thickening) is done by taking the patient's own fat cells and creating a bed of fat in the penile shaft. Once the bed of fat grafts (becoming a permanent part of penis), it is relatively easy to add on until the desired girth is attained. A special combination of nutrients is added into the graft to prevent fat from being absorbed into the body. For greater results, it is recommended that this method be repeated three months after initial surgery.

"In the past, many high profile doctors overfilled the penis to compensate for the fat that the body wouldn't take," Guinta said. "When the fat would die and get absorbed into the body, the penis would end up lumpy and distorted, sometimes with cysts and nodules. Our method of properly sizing and placing the fat has improved patient results, and the incidents of complications are extremely low."

Hiding inside the body of virtually every man is an extra 3-4 inches of the penis. Penile lengthening externalizes some of these hidden inches with the use of a laser that cuts a small portion of the suspensory ligaments (these are the ones that hold the penis against the undersurfaces of the pubic bone between your legs). The one-inch incision is made in the pubic area, and the penile root is then proportionally extended forward. Lastly, the ligaments are reconstructed to prevent any changes in original erectile angles.

All this talk of internal yanking and cutting may have some of you gritting your teeth, however, it's not as bad as it sounds. This minimally invasive procedure has a short surgery time (no more than an hour and a half) and relatively rapid healing rate. After being bandaged up and vital signs are back to normal, most patients are ready to leave within an hour.

"The overwhelming majority of men do very well with post-operative pain," Guinta said. "More tend to experience discomfort rather than pain, and the feeling generally goes away within the first few weeks."

A small device known as The Helping Hand Extender has proven crucial in maintaining proper positioning of the penis during the healing process and also aids in safely increasing the volume of the penile shaft in both erect and flaccid states. This nifty $399 device is made up of a plastic support ring connected to two metal rods. At the very tip of the device, the support ring holds the head of the penis in place. The device works by applying a traction force weight of 600-1,500 grams across the penile axis during continued periods of time. The force causes the penis to create new tissue, thus enlarging and lengthening the penis.

"The average length gain in the penis' flaccid state is 2-2.5 inches and 1-1.25 inches when erect," Guinta said. "Thickness varies with each patient, however, a 50 percent increase in diameter is the usual goal."

Proper healing and optimal results rely heavily on following post-operative rules and doctor's orders. Test driving your "new and improved" penis before it's ready to leave the shop can result in pain, bruising or swelling.

"I recommend that patients who get both the thickening and lengthening procedures done to refrain from sexual activity for 3-4 weeks," Guinta said. "Vigorous sex may be a little uncomfortable the first few times; your body will let you know when it's too much."

Sports and exercise should also be restricted for the first 3-4 weeks. "Lower body motion like jogging or tennis can possibly damage the surgical area," Guinta said. "Damage to the inner sutures may cause bleeding, scar tissue and loss of the fat before it gets the chance to permanently graft in the penis."

Phalloplasty has positively changed the sex lives of thousands of men today. Surgical techniques have advanced drastically over the last decade to make this a relatively easy procedure with very few drawbacks. If you are interested in penile enhancement, educate yourself about it. Research your prospective surgeon (preferably a board certified member of The American Academy of Phalloplasty Surgeons); know their success rates and track record. Have realistic expectations. This procedure is not for everyone and results are varied. Remember, this a permanent modification you are making to your body. Bigger isn't always better, nor does it come with a promise of happiness.

For more information regarding phalloplasty, visit www.drguinta.com or www.penis-enlargement.com/phalloplasty-academy.html. **Q**

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Saturday, Oct. 1

GAY DAYS 2 • Anaheim, Calif • www.GayDay2.com

LOBSTER FAIR • This annual fundraiser for the Gay and Lesbian Center promises lots of fun and lots of lobsters. Activities include entertainment, a fisherman's corner, chair massages, arts and crafts, raffle prizes, children activities, and a bake sale. Christ Episcopal Church, 2000 S. Maryland Pkwy., 9am. • www.LobsterFair.com

GAY AND LESBIAN CENTER HONORARIUM • Event at the Palms, 7pm. Tickets are $100. • www.TheCenter-LasVegas.com

QRADIO • KLAV 1230 AM, 9pm • www.QVegas.com

BLESSID UNION OF SOULS • Concert at Clark County Amphitheatre, 6:30pm. Tickets are $8. • www.ticketmaster.com

DANZIG • Concert at the Hard Rock, 6:30pm. Tickets are $25. • www.ticketmaster.com

DOLLY PARTON • Concert at the House of Blues, 7pm. Tickets are $62 to $142. • www.ticketmaster.com

2005 AGASSI GRAND SLAM FOR CHILDREN • Performance at the MGM Grand, 8pm. Tickets are $100 to $150. • www.ticketmaster.com

RARE EARTH AND IDES OF MARCH • Concert at the Henderson Pavilion, 8pm. Tickets are $5 to $20. • 267-4849

THE DAN BAND • Concert at the Aladdin, 10pm. Tickets are $29.50. • www.ticketmaster.com

STYX AND REO SPEEDWAGON • Concert at the Orleans Arena, 8pm. Tickets are $35 to $65. • www.OrleansArena.com

KRAVE'S 1ST ANNIVERSARY • www.kravelasvegas.com

Sunday, Oct. 2

GAY DAYS 2 • Anaheim, Calif. • www.GayDay2.com

KARL DENSON'S TINY UNIVERSE • Concert at the House of Blues, 7pm. Tickets are $17 to $22. • www.ticketmaster.com

LESS THAN JAKE • Concert at Jillians, 7pm. Tickets are $17. • www.ticketmaster.com

Monday, Oct. 3

BETTY'S OUTRAGEOUS ADVENTURES SOFTBALL • Cheyenne Sports Complex, 3500 E. Cheyenne • www.BettysOut.com

Tuesday, Oct. 4

THRICE • Concert at the House of Blues, 6pm. Tickets are $15. • www.ticketmaster.com

Wednesday, Oct. 5

GAY AND LESBIAN FINANCIAL CLUB • The Center, 7pm • LVGayFinancial@hotmail.com

Thursday, Oct. 6

MINDLESS SELF INDULGENCE • Concert at the House of Blues, 6pm. Tickets are $12.50. • www.ticketmaster.com

SIGUR RÓS • Concert at the Hard Rock, 8pm. Tickets are $28 to $43. • www.ticketmaster.com



Friday, Oct. 7

AGE OF CHIVALRY RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL • Festival at Sunset Park, 10am. Tickets are $10/adults or $5/children and seniors. • www.LVRenFair.com

FIRST FRIDAYS IN THE ARTS DISTRICT • Main and Fourth Streets, Downtown, 6pm. There's more to Vegas than glitter and gambling, and the downtown arts district is a perfect example. Once a month, all the galleries join together to welcome the public. Stroll between galleries, sip a latte and revel in your hipness. • www.FirstFriday-LasVegas.org

MUSIQ • Concert at the House of Blues, 7pm. Tickets are $27 to $45. • www.ticketmaster.com

THE KILLERS • Concert at the Hard Rock, 8pm. Tickets are $39. • www.ticketmaster.com

GRAND SUMO TOURNAMENT • Competition at Mandalay Bay, 8pm. Tickets are $75 to $175. • www.MandalayBay.com

MURAL DEDICATION • Rainbow Center • 702.733.9800



Saturday, Oct. 8

AGE OF CHIVALRY RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL • Festival at Sunset Park, 10am. Tickets are $10/adults or $5/children and seniors. • www.LVRenFair.com

SUMMERLIN ART FESTIVAL • Festival at the Summerlin Community Park, 10am. Free. • www.Summerlin.com

SECOND SATURDAYS • POST Modern Gallery, 11am. Free. • 229-5431

BANGLES • Concert at the House of Blues, 7:30pm. Tickets are $25 to $35. • www.ticketmaster.com

HENDERSON CIVIC SYMPHONY • Concert at the Henderson Pavilion, 8pm. Free. • 264-4849

DENNIS DEYOUNG • Concert at the Aladdin, 8pm. Tickets are $55 to $65. • www.ticketmaster.com

CELTIC WOMAN • Concert at the Orleans Arena, 8pm. Tickets are $38 to $53. • www.OrleansArena.com

HOLLYWOOD COMEDY TOUR • Concert at the Palms, 8pm and 10:30pm. Tickets are $25. • www.ticketmaster.com

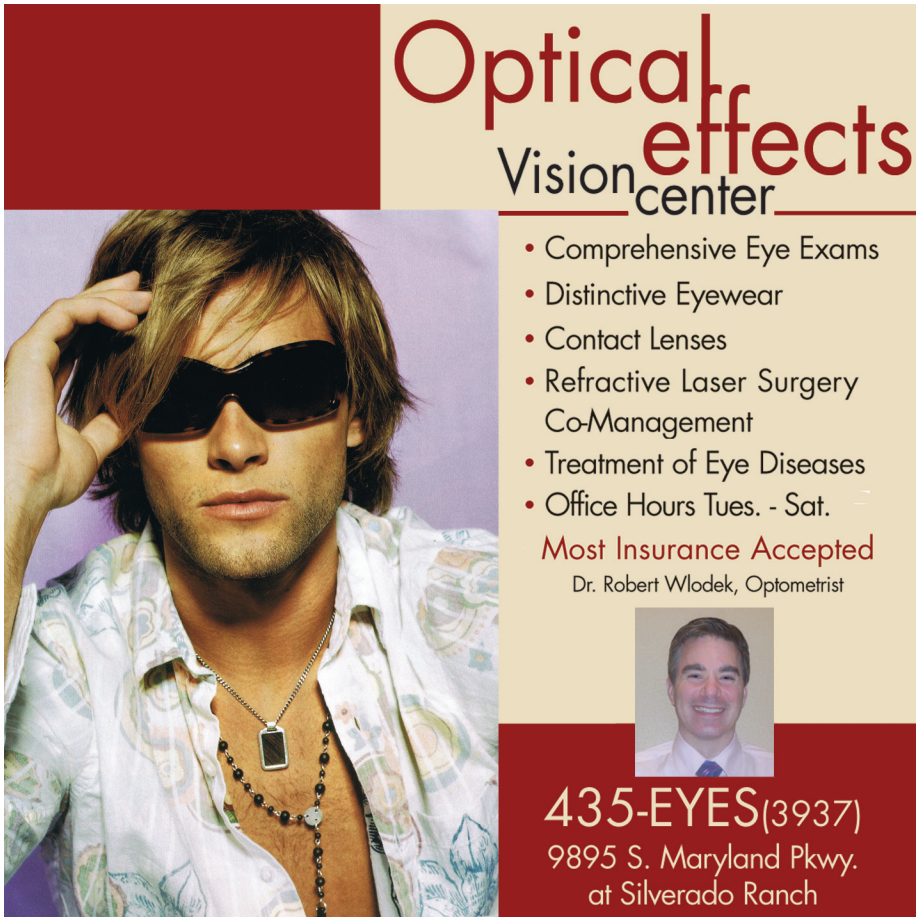
MOTLEY CRUE • Concert at the Hard Rock, 8pm. Tickets are $100. • www.ticketmaster.com

GRAND SUMO TOURNAMENT • Competition at Mandalay Bay, 8pm. Tickets are $75 to $175. • www.MandalayBay.com

QRADIO • KLAV 1230 AM, 9pm • www.QVegas.com

MR. GAY COMPETITION • Palm Springs • www.mrgaycompetition.com

Continued on page 88





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Sunday, Oct. 9

NGRA BUS TRIP TO LAUGHLIN • Badlands, 10am • ww.NGRA.com

Tuesday, Oct. 11

SNAPI PRIDE BINGO • Hamburger Mary's, 7pm. • www.LasVegasPride.com

Wednesday, Oct. 12

SYSTEM OF A DOWN • Concert at the Hard Rock, 8pm. Tickets are $52. • www.ticketmaster.com

Thursday, Oct. 13

SKA IS DEAD TOUR • Concert at Jillians, 7pm. Tickets are $12. • www.ticketmaster.com

PROCLAIMERS • Concert at the House of Blues, 7:30pm. Tickets are $17.50. • www.ticketmaster.com

LEATHER & UNIFORM CLUB • Meeting at the Eagle, 7:30pm. • www.LUCofLV.com

SNICK'S 12TH ANNIVERSARY • Buffett and entertainment, 7pm.

Friday, Oct. 14

DESERT BROTHERHOOD MOTORCYCLE CLUB • Three-day run to Palm Springs. The Buffalo, 9am. • Bob 702-456-7661

MR. OLYMPIA BODYBUILDING • Competition at the Orleans Arena, 8pm. Tickets are $54.50 to $159.50. • www.OrleansArena.com

FAT JOE • Concert at the House of Blues, 7:30pm. Tickets are $22 to $30. • www.ticketmaster.com

THE BLACK CROWES • Concert at the Hard Rock, 8pm. Tickets are $57. • www.ticketmaster.com

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY PRE-PARTY • Get the party started early at Goodtimes. • www.NCODvegas.com



Saturday, Oct. 15

NEVADA OUTDOORS • Hiking. • www.NevadaOutdoors.org

MR. OLYMPIA BODYBUILDING • Competition at the Orleans Arena, 8pm. Tickets are $54.50 to $159.50. • www.OrleansArena.com

3 DOORS DOWN • Concert at the Aladdin, 8pm. Tickets are $28.10 to $53.33. • www.ticketmaster.com

SUGAR RAY • Concert at the Star of the Desert Arena, Primm, NV, 8pm. Tickets are $32.45 to $43.45. • www.ticketmaster.com

THE BLACK CROWES • Concert at the Hard Rock, 8pm. Tickets are $57. • www.ticketmaster.com

EAGLES • Concert at the Hard Rock, 8pm. Tickets are $78.75 to $367.50. • www.ticketmaster.com

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY STREET FESTIVAL • Join the party in the Fruit Loop. • www.NCODvegas.com

QRADIO • KLAV 1230 AM, 9pm • www.QVegas.com

Sunday, Oct. 16

DESERT BROTHERHOOD MOTORCYCLE CLUB • Run to Blue Diamond, Bonnie Springs and Red Rock Canyon, The Buffalo, 9am. • Bob 702-456-7661

ALICE COOPER • Concert at the Hard Rock, 8pm. Tickets are $30 to $40. • www.ticketmaster.com

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY T-DANCE • Join the boys at Blue Moon. • www.NCODvegas.com

Monday, Oct. 17

BETTY'S OUTRAGEOUS ADVENTURES SOFTBALL • Cheyenne Sports Complex, 3500 E. Cheyenne • www.BettysOut.com

Tuesday, Oct. 18

COHEED AND CAMBRIA • Concert at the House of Blues, 5pm. Tickets are $19. • www.ticketmaster.com

Thursday, Oct. 20

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN SOCIAL • Hamburger Mary's, 5:30pm. • HRCLasVegas@yahoo.com

FREE NIGHT OF BEAUTY • A New You Medical Spa, 6pm - 9pm, RSVP Only • 702.735.4201



Friday, Oct. 21

ELIZABETH BLAU • Opening reception at the Spann Gallery at The Arts Factory, 6pm. Free. • 384-3860

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK • Performance at the Henderson Pavilion, 7pm. Free. • 267-4849

RICARDO MONTANER • Concert at the Aladdin, 8pm. Tickets are $45 to $65. • www.ticketmaster.com

Saturday, Oct. 22

DONALD J. PLINER DOG FASHION SHOW • Joe's Seafood Stonecrab (Forum Shops) 11am - 1pm

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK • Performance at the Henderson Pavilion, 7pm. Free. • 267-4849

KOTTONMOUTH KINGS • Concert at the House of Blues, 7pm. Tickets are $17.50. • www.ticketmaster.com

JIMMY BUFFETT • Concert at the MGM Grand, 8pm. Tickets are $68.25 to $210. • www.ticketmaster.com

TWELVE GIRLS BAND • Concert at the Aladdin, 8pm. Tickets are $45.71 to $160. • www.ticketmaster.com

QRADIO • KLAV 1230 AM, 9pm • www.QVegas.com

Sunday, Oct. 23

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK • Performance at the Henderson Pavilion, 7pm. Free. • 267-4849



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Monday, Oct. 24

BETTY'S OUTRAGEOUS ADVENTURES SOFTBALL • Cheyenne Sports Complex, 3500 E. Cheyenne • www.BettysOut.com

Tuesday, Oct. 25

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN MONTHLY MEETING • reJAVAnate Café, 3300 E. Flamingo Rd., 7pm. • HRCLasVegas@yahoo.com

Friday, Oct. 28

NEVADA BALLET NEON EVOLUTION • Performance at the Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 8pm. Tickets are $25 to $65. • www.NevadaBallet.com

BLUES TRAVELER • Concert at the House of Blues, 7pm. Tickets are $25 to $30. • www.ticketmaster.com

DAVE MATTHEWS AND TIM REYNOLDS • Concert at the Aladdin, 8pm. Tickets are $50. • www.ticketmaster.com

COSTUME CONTEST • Hamburger Mary's, 10pm.

TREY ANASTASIO • Concert at the Aladdin, midnight. Tickets are $36.19. • www.ticketmaster.com

COSTUME CONTEST • Gipsy, 2am.

Saturday, Oct. 29

CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS • Festival at Pacific Avenue and Market Street in Henderson, 10am. • 596-5945

VEGOOSE FESTIVAL • Concert at Sam Boyd Stadium, 11am. Tickets are $128.50 to $442.50. • www.Vegoose.com

NEVADA BALLET NEON EVOLUTION • Performance at the Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 8pm. Tickets are $25 to $65. • www.NevadaBallet.com

JASON MRAZ • Concert at the Hard Rock, 7pm. Tickets are $27. • www.ticketmaster.com

JIMMY BUFFETT • Concert at the MGM Grand, 8pm. Tickets are $68.25 to $210. • www.ticketmaster.com

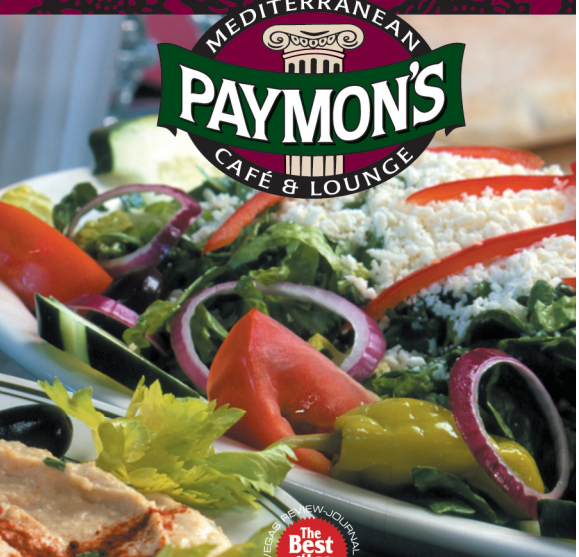
QRADIO • KLAV 1230 AM, 9pm • www.QVegas.com

FETISH AND FANTASY HALLOWEEN BALL • Party at the Sports Center, 10pm. Tickets are $81.95. • www.ticketmaster.com



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MOE • Concert at the Aladdin, midnight. Tickets are $32.86. • www.ticketmaster.com

STRING CHEESE INCIDENT • Concert at the Orleans Arena, midnight. Tickets are $34.50. • www.ticketmaster.com

11TH ANNUAL BARTENDER DUDES TO DIVA'S • Drink specials, drag preformences, Backdoor.

SOUND TRIBE SECTOR 9 • Concert at the House of Blues, midnight. Tickets are $22. • www.ticketmaster.com

COSTUME CONTEST • Gipsy's,2am.

Sunday, Oct. 30

CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS • Festival at Pacific Avenue and Market Street in Henderson, 10am. • 596-5945

VEGOOSE FESTIVAL • Concert at Sam Boyd Stadium, 11am. Tickets are $128.50 to $442.50. • www.Vegoose.com

NEVADA BALLET NEON EVOLUTION • Performance at the Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 2pm and 8pm. Tickets are $25 to $65. • www.NevadaBallet.com

THE ROOTS • Concert at the House of Blues, 6:30pm. Tickets are $25 to $40. • www.ticketmaster.com

GALACTIC • Concert at the House of Blues, midnight. Tickets are $22. • www.ticketmaster.com

PHIL LESH • Concert at the Hard Rock, midnight. Sold out. • www.ticketmaster.com

Monday, Oct. 31 - Halloween

BETTY'S OUTRAGEOUS ADVENTURES SOFTBALL • Cheyenne Sports Complex, 3500 E. Cheyenne • www.BettysOut.com

AGAINST ME • Concert at Jillians, 7pm. Tickets are $12. • www.ticketmaster.com

GLAMOUR BOUTIQUE II HALLOWEEN BASH • Rainbow Lounge 8pm.

WEEN • Concert at the Hard Rock, 9pm. Tickets are $31.50. • www.ticketmaster.com

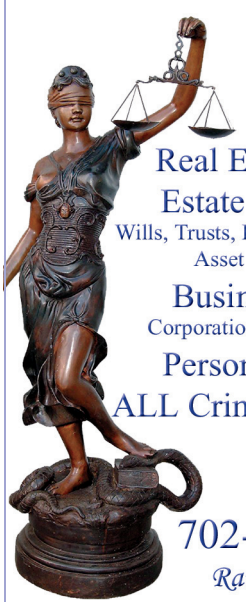
BEAUX ARTS BALL • Party at Studio 54 inside the MGM Grand, 10:30pm. Benefits Golden Rainbow. Tickets are $25. • www.GoldenRainbow.org

COSTUME CONTEST • Gipsy, 2am.

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Q READER WINS TRIP TO ENGLAND

Ryan Kiser, the winner of *QVegas*' Trip To England drawing, spent the last weekend of August in the city of Manchester enjoying the hospitality of the North West of England courtesy of bmi, Principal Hotels and Visit Gay Manchester.

Ryan's visit coincided with Manchester's gay Pride (one of Europe's largest Pride events). Ryan and his guest were flown to England courtesy of bmi, Las Vegas' latest non-stop carrier to the heart of Europe. He was wined and dined aboard bmi's newest Airbus A330 straight into Manchester.

On arrival they both took up residence at one of Manchester's finest hotels: The Palace. Situated in the heart of the action, Ryan was set to have a grandstand view of the fun and frolics. However, the people of Britain came up trumps and went one better allowing Ryan to ride the top of a double-decker bus throughout he heart of town cheered by the thousands of people lining the route. Ryan was so impressed with the reception he got, he has decided to emigrate.

QVegas would like to thank the sponsors and partners who made the trip possible. If you are planning to travel to Europe for vacation or business, you may want to take notice of Ryan's experience and talk to the people who really know how to take care of you:

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principalhotels.com
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visitgaymanchester.com













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OUT WORDS

Continued from page 47

is a decision he hasn't regretted. "It's hard but definitely worth it," Quist said. "The silence, secrecy, hiding — it's draining."

ALIENATED IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Gays and lesbians are coming out at earlier ages each year. Nineteen-year-old Alexis Smith was one of them.

When she was only 13, Smith came out to her then best friend, Nicole, via a phone confession. "I told her I had a crush on her," she said. "She was open and accepting."

Coming out to her family members and kids at school wasn't as easy.

Smith's adopted mother found a love letter written to her daughter. When asked who the letter was from, Smith let it slip that it was from her then girlfriend.

"She threw me out of the house for 10 hours," Smith said. "After that, I was grounded to my room for two months."

Smith's grandmother wanted to send her to shock therapy. "She believes being gay is a choice," she said. "It's not. It's chemistry. It's how you're attracted to someone."

The kids in Smith's middle school were equally antagonistic toward her sexual preference. When she came out, many of her friends turned their backs on her. Guys and girls alike bullied her for being the first openly gay student at Garside Middle School.

"The first few months after coming out, guys would pull me aside and punch me in the face and throw me into lockers," Smith said. "I was hurt and upset. I found comfort in music and writing. Two years later it was cool to be gay."

Smith enjoys going to The Center's youth meetings held every Thursday at 6 p.m. She has been going regularly for two years.

"I think it's very helpful, especially for those confused," she said. "The gay community is expanding. Being gay is becoming more acceptable."

THE CATHOLIC APPRENTICE

When people confide in their priests with their darkest secrets, they never expect to be slapped in the face repeatedly as a result. For 22-year-old Chris Alanano, that's exactly what happened.

Alanano was only 16 when he came out to his Roman Catholic priest. "I was really religious at the time and was having difficulty with my sexuality," he said. "I felt guilty about it because according to the Catholic Church, homosexuality is a sin. He was my only moral coach at the time."

Alanano's priest — someone he trusted and considered a friend — reacted very harshly to the news.

"He forced me to join the priesthood," Alanano said. "He didn't want me to tell anyone. He told me to keep silent. He even slapped me across the face a couple times and forced me to feel ashamed."

After that, their relationship dissolved. Alanano started to hate him. His priest called his cell phone incessantly to check up on him. "He called my cell phone crazy — like Courtney Love crazy," he explained.

Alanano's mom later found a note he wrote to his priest, which detailed his hatred of lying to his family. "She asked what the note meant," he said. "My mom said she knew since I was two. I didn't know my mom would become my fag hag."

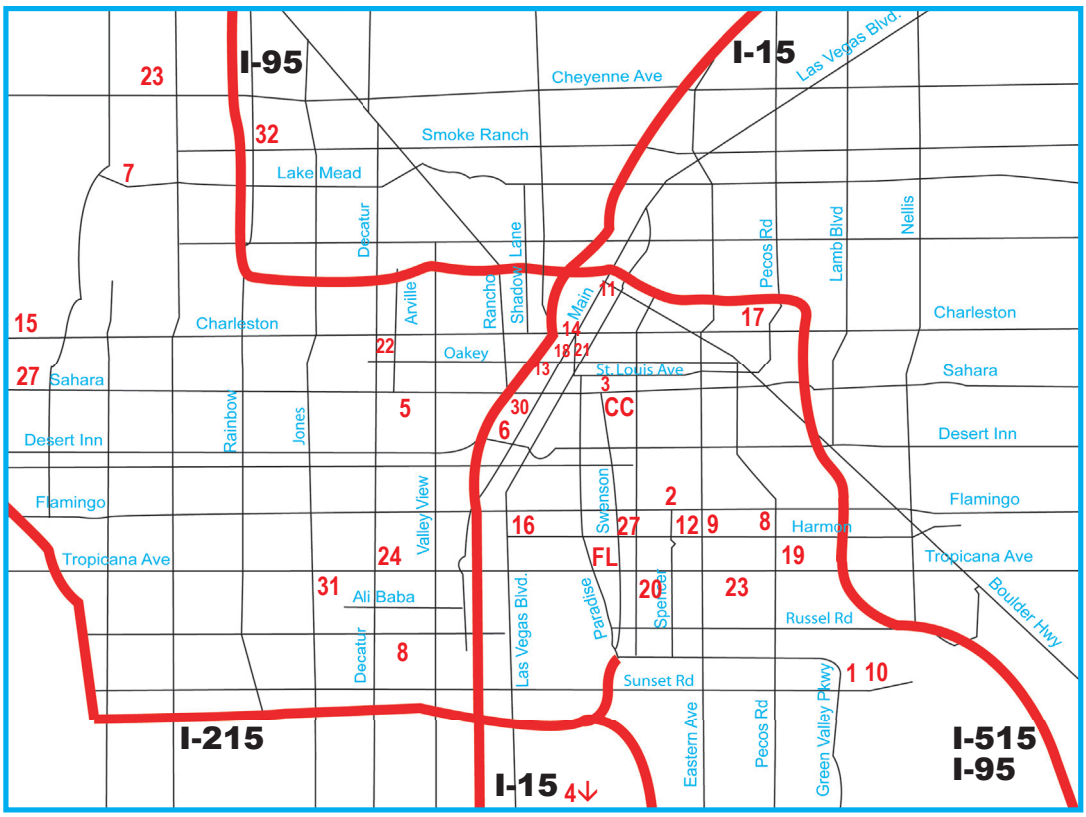
His dad, brother and friends were also accepting.

He felt generally relieved after coming out. "My double life merged into one," Alanano said. "It relieved a lot of stress."

The most difficult part about coming out was the change in his religious lifestyle. "I left the church," Alanano said. "I was really active. I dropped all my activities. I abandoned my church friends. I was once a die-hard Catholic, but now I'm a humanist."

Alanano, an advocate for gay rights, offered valuable tips for people struggling with the coming out process: "Build a support group of homosexuals, so that you can become comfortable with the lifestyle," he said. "Gay-Straight Alliances, NCOD and Pride are also helpful. We need to get people with no exposure to understand we're not freaks." **Q**

"I left the church. I was really active. I dropped all my activities. I abandoned my church friends. I was once a die-hard Catholic, but now I'm a humanist."



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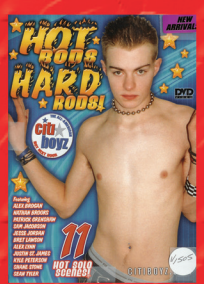
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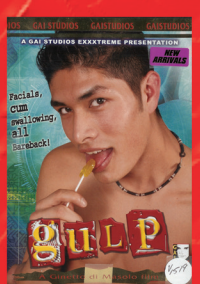


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...AND BABY MAKES THREE

Continued from page 45

would be the legal adoptive parent. A law that was passed in California states that gay or lesbian couples who have adopted and then part ways still retain joint responsibility of that child. So, in California, if your relationship breaks up, you still have all the responsibilities to that child such as child-support and visitation.

Now that you have truly thought about becoming an adoptive parent or foster parent, first things first: find out what you need to know about children who need homes. There are five options that concern the circumstances affecting the child's need for fostering or adoptive care. These are:

1. Regular foster respite/relative care: You will provide a safe family environment for children that are temporarily removed from their homes.
2. Medically-fragile children: These are children who are going through withdrawals from drugs, who have AIDS- or HIV-related illnesses, children who require use of an apnea monitor and children on life- support systems.
3. Legal risk foster family: These are licensed foster parents whose intent is to adopt a child in the event they become legally free for adoption.
4. Shelter care: These families provide emergency care for abused, neglected, abandoned and destitute children whose case is going through the court process.
5. Special needs adoptions: "Special needs" children can be any age and have emotional, physical or intellectual challenges; a sibling group who need to remain together; and children who are over the age of five. Also, this part is a must-know: There is no waiting list to adopt these children. All you need to do is finish the classes and home study.

All adopting, foster and single parents need to take classes, and the number that you need to call to reserve the orientation session is 702-455-0181. Reservations are not needed to attend the classes. Classes are held on different days and times to fit your schedule. Titles of the classes are Teamwork, Attachment, Loss, Family Relationships I, Discipline, Family Relationships II, Transitioning, Decision Making (important, since you can still back out of the adopting process) and a Kinship class, only required for relatives who have related children residing in their home.

Classes do not cost the parents who are adopting or fostering, but there are some costs involved. Families pay $45 per person



for fingerprints, physical exams and an attorney, but there is a $250 reimbursement for adoptive families' legal fees.

Everyone seeking to foster or adopt must be screened using fingerprints, and that also applies to any adult living in a household in which the new child will live.

With due thought and diligence, it really is that simple, so what are you waiting for?

Susan Klien-Rothchild, who is the director of family services for Clark County, stated, "Clark County wants to place a child in a home that is loving, caring, and safe, so all can apply.

"We do have classes, a home study, etc. If it's a same-sex couple or single parent, they all need to be fingerprinted to make sure that a member has not been arrested for child abuse or neglect. We support *all* couples and single adults to adopt."

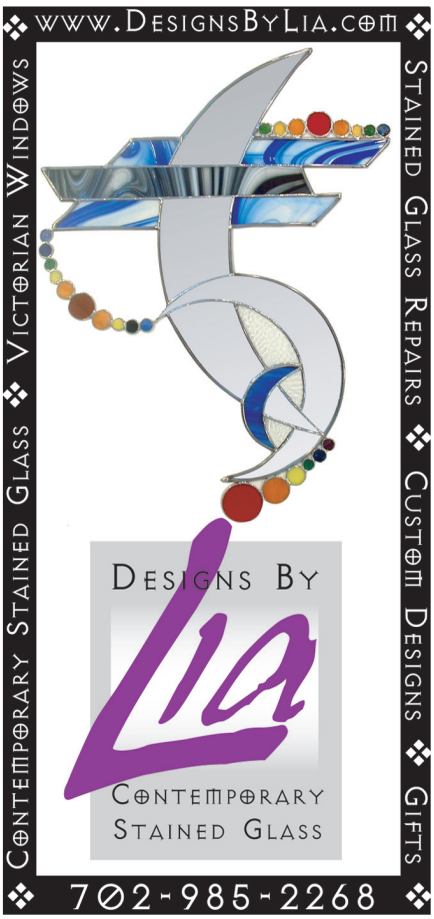
Another important question that Susan addressed was that of overcrowding in the class rooms and lack of child care for parents with children. She stated, "When we released the campaign message 'You don't have to be perfect to be a perfect parent,' we were surprised with the enrollment. Now we are looking for larger rooms to hold the classes."

About the lack of child care, she states, "The State does not have adequate funding for child care. We are truly working on that. We know about and are working on the issues that have been bought to my attention. If parents want to contact me directly, they can call me at 702-455-5483 or e-mail me at Kleinsl@co.clark.nv.us. I will answer their questions."

Clark County is very supportive about gay and lesbian couples and single adults who wish to adopt. So pick up the phone and call 702-455-0181 or 702-455-4024. Adopt a child who needs your love.

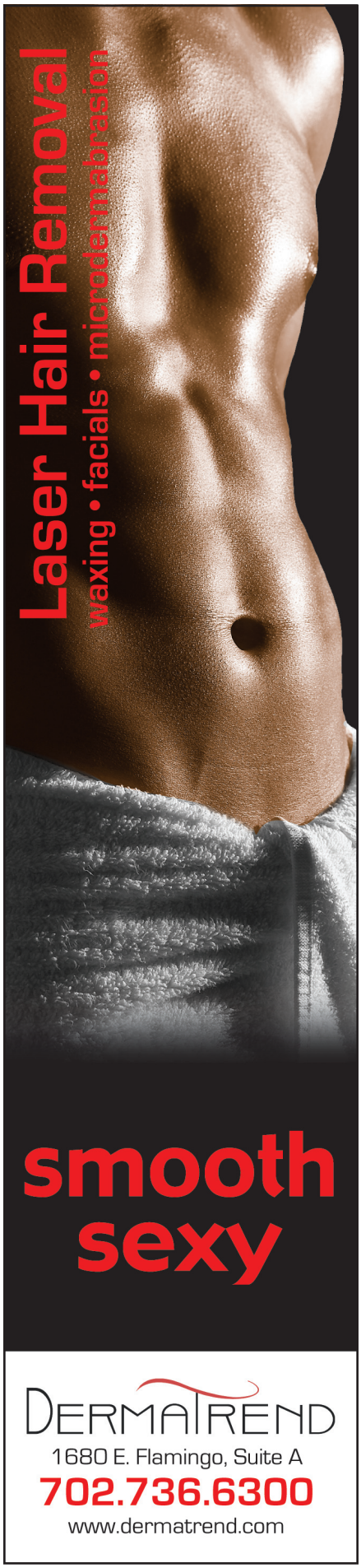
Want more information or just want to talk to someone about the issue? You can meet some of the wonderful social workers from the Department of Family Services at the World of Women Expo Oct. 8 at the Stardust Pavilion from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and ask further questions. **Q**

QVegas *will soon publish a follow-up to this story containing interviews with LGBT parents who went through the system and the changes that may have occurred by press time.*


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ANNOUNCEMENTS

***QVegas* is always happy** to announce your special events, weddings, commitment ceremonies, births, adoptions, and more. Contact the Classifieds Department at 702-650-0636 ext.111 for details.

The Las Vegas Men's Chorus is still accepting new members and hold its rehersals on Monday evenings at Christ Church Episcopal at 2000 Maryland Parkway and St. Louis, just 2 blocks north of Maryland and E. Sahara. If you are interested call the choir hotline of 453-5862. All who wish to join are welcome to come and audition for your section at 7PM Monday evenings at the Church.

The Leather Uniform Club of Las Vegas meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Las Vegas Eagle @ 8pm. Anyone, involved in, interested in, or curious about leather, uniforms, rubber, etc. Are invited to attend. www.LUCofLV.com or call 702-362-1485 between 10a.m. and 9 p.m.

PERSONALS: MEN SEEKING MEN

WARNING: QVegas reminds readers to use common sense when placing or answering an advertisement. Meeting people for the first time in a public environment is recommended and letting a friend know your whereabouts and destination is advisable.

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PERSONALS: MEN SEEKING MEN

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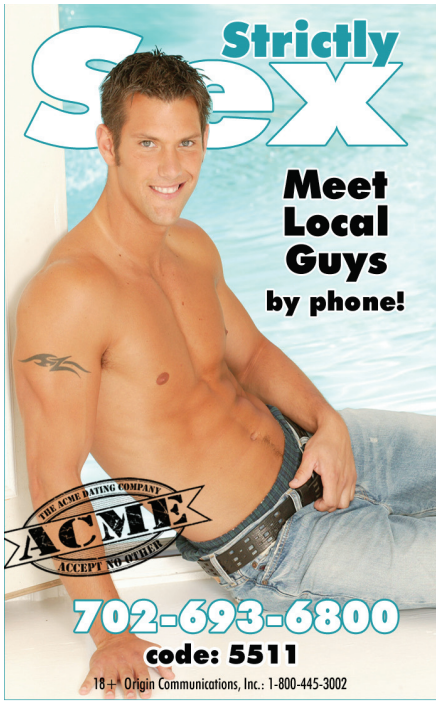
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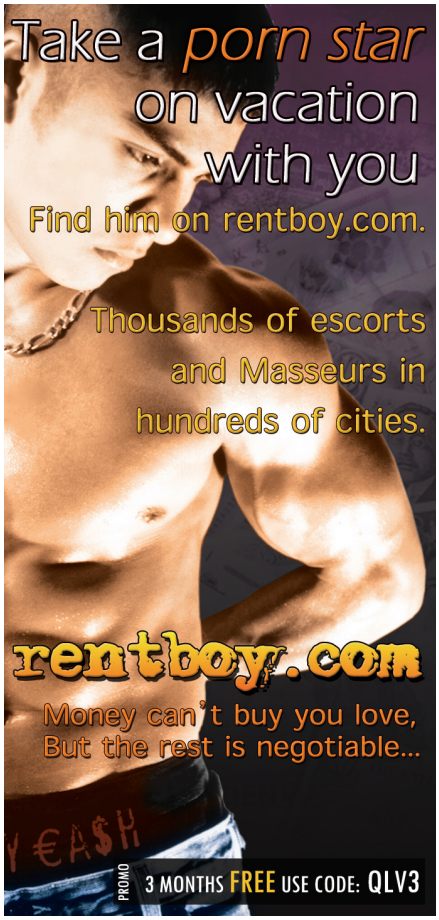
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QVegas is published monthly. The classifieds deadline is noon on the 15th of each month for the following month's issue.

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$70 for the first 20 words, 50¢ each additional word.

- ❑ 01 Employment
- ❑ 02 Health Services
- ❑ 03 Personal Services
- ❑ 04 Business Services
- ❑ 05 Roommates
- ❑ 06 Rentals
- ❑ 07 Real Estate
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- ❑ 09 Accommodations
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- ❑ 17 Adult Websites

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Lady C's Leather, 4037 W. Sahara Ave.
Neighborhoodies, Desert Passage Mall
Pride Factory, 953 E. Sahara Ave.
Priscilla's, 700 N. Rainbow Blvd.
Leather Addictions, 700 E. Naples Ste. 103
The Male Bag, 610 E. Sahara Ave., #13
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TeNo, Desert Passage Mall at the Aladdin

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A New You, 4440 S. Eastern Ave.
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Park Avenue Salon, 4660 E. Sunset Rd.
Statscript Pharmacy, 2300 Rancho Dr.

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Viva Las Vegas, 1205 S. Las Vegas Blvd.

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MCC, 1140 Almond Tree Ln.
St. Therese Center, 67 E. Lake Mead
Unitarian Church, 16 E. Lake Mead Dr.
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Borders Bookstore, 2190 Rainbow Blvd.
Borders Bookstore, 1445 W. Sunset Rd.
Borders Bookstore, 10950 W. Charleston Blvd.
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Tower Records, 4580 W. Sahara Ave.
Video West, 4637 Paradise Rd.
Video West, 6663 Smoke Ranch Rd.
Video West, 5785 Tropicana Ave.

LIBRARY
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Clark County Health District	
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Countrywide Mortgage, Jim Losell	232-5984
Courtesy Henderson – Sergio Brooks	855-4846
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Direct Access Lending, Joli Mauracher	617-9900
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State Farm Ins., Ron Berry	255-0050
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LIBRA
(September 23-October 22)

Lunar eclipse in your sign on the 3rd sets off a sweet career chain reaction. A secret ambition is realized around the 11th. A lovely chance encounter on the 16th proves breathtaking. The Sun's transit from Libra on the 23rd provides you with much more get-up-and-go energy.

SCORPIO
(October 23-November 21)

The month begins as an uphill climb. You're back on track by the 7th. The 9th and 10th are best for a mini getaway. You end up spending more than you'd planned on the 18th. You'll be totally in control on the 24th. Being charming and tactful on the 29th brings best results.

SAGITTARIUS
(November 22-December 21)

October proves to be a marathon of activities and accomplishments. Your name recognition spreads after the 8th. Demands for your services may prove taxing on the 15th. Keep temper in check on the 23rd. The 29th brings about a real financial shot in the arm.

CAPRICORN
(December 22-January 19)

You'll be in the driver's seat for most of this month. Those powers of persuasion prove especially strong on the 10th. Festivities on the 15th may tax your strength. Lay low at work on the 19th. Meetings on the 25th are quite productive. You'll dazzle everyone on Halloween.

AQUARIUS
(January 20-February 18)

October proves to be low key but very productive. There's more work than play in store. The pace smooths out on the 11th. Take a co-worker's advice to heart on the 17th. Be prepared to back up your findings on the 27th. The 29th looks just fine for a fun spending spree.

PISCES
(February 19-March 19)

Like Aquarius, you'll spend more time this month working than having fun. But, the end results will be more than worth it. A steamy encounter on the 14th could be the start of something nice. Mood swings may hit you on the 26th. You finally get to repay a debt at month's end.

ARIES
(March 20-April 19)

Incoming cash flow looks quite good all month long. Try to save at least some of it. The 9th requires you to be more aggressive with clients. Avoid coming off as a know-it-all on the 17th, when that lunar eclipse in your sign hits. Physical energies look fabulous, especially after the 25th.

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

Study Sag's message. Don't burn out on work/promotional activities. There's more to life than that. You hit the road in more ways than one on the 14th. Avoid sticky family squabbles on the 20th. Reunion with a dear friend on the 26th is quite emotional. Make the 30th a "veg out" day.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 21)

Though finances are stronger, you still have to watch those spending habits. Your popularity soars on the 8th. Offer advice but not financial help on the 14th. Take the high road no matter what on the 23rd. Cheer up a friend who's blue on the 28th. You'll look incredible on the 29th.

CANCER
(June 22-July 22)

Fewer career obstacles await during October. The 7th-15th is especially fast paced, so make sure those batteries are charged. Don't overeat on the 22nd. It's okay to ask for help on the 25th. The 27th looks good for airing any grievances. You'll get to party hearty on the 28th & 29th.

LEO
(July 23-August 22)

This month, you give out more than is gotten back, Leo. Don't be slighted. That's just the way it is. Nose to the grindstone brings best results. Powerful eclipse energies between the 3rd and 17th give you incredible focus. Doing the work of three people on the 30th pays off down the road.

VIRGO
(August 23-September 22)

This month has three peaks and one valley. Energies look quite good, except on the 8th-14th. Consider those days as a major cosmic test of faith. A romantic surprise unveils early on the 16th. Demands on your time prove stressful on the 28th. Just be cool and calm.

CELEBRITY LIBRA

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA

BORN: October 18, 1956
PROFESSION: Athlete
BIO: Martina works tirelessly to promote womens' athletics both on and off the court. The world's most successful tennis player, she has won nearly every major title, including 20 Wimbledon titles and 58 Grand Slam titles.



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By Mark Shields, Director HRC Coming Out Project

TALK ABOUT IT

Being brave doesn't mean that you're not scared. It means that you're scared and that you do the thing you're afraid of anyway.



Illustration by Nick San Pedro.

Coming out as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or as a straight ally is an act of bravery, authenticity, and openness.

Many people think of coming out as a one time event, but at the Human Rights Campaign Coming Out Project, we believe that there is an endless hunger and need in this world for more bravery and that coming out should be a daily event to help meet that need.

In many ways, coming out, or the act of speaking with friends, family and acquaintances about LGBT life, is like running. The more you do it, the better you become at it. Going for a run one afternoon in your lifetime is all well and good. But, if you want to see a real change in your overall health and strength, try doing it every day. It's the same way with being out.

The way we do that is simply by talking about it, by having the conversation with as many people as we can manage.

Polling of the LGBT community shows that most are out to their parents, siblings and close friends. The same poll shows that more than half the community is not out to their bosses. Only 16 percent are out at church; and only three percent are out to their doctors, a number that is both shocking and representative of a huge public health challenge for LGBT Americans.

That's not to say that we're calling all LGBT people to sit down with every single person they meet on every single day and have a long, in depth conversation about LGBT people and issues. But it does mean that we are all called to be open and honest, in large ways and small, with those people that we encounter in our daily lives.

Maybe for you that means something as simple as putting a picture of your partner on your desk at work, chatting with your neighbor about LGBT issues in the news or asking your healthcare provider about specific health issues facing the LGBT community.

The Human Rights Campaign's Coming Out Project has long been a trusted resource for those making their first steps on the coming out journey. Today, as we re-imagine the program, we are broadening our scope to include those who have already made that brave step to come out and who now seek to be encouraged and empowered with resources to help them be out every single day.

Straight people who stand shoulder to shoulder with LGBT Americans in greater and greater numbers also go through a coming out process as they learn to voice their support for LGBT issues. We will be reaching out to provide resources for them as well.

In short, the Coming Out Project is a community camp fire, where all people who support equality for LGBT Americans are invited to share their stories and support one another.

If we do that, we will not only take giant strides toward attaining equal rights and better understanding of LGBT people, but we will also be giving a great gift to the country by creating a culture where all people can be more open and honest about who they really are. Talk about it. **Q**









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