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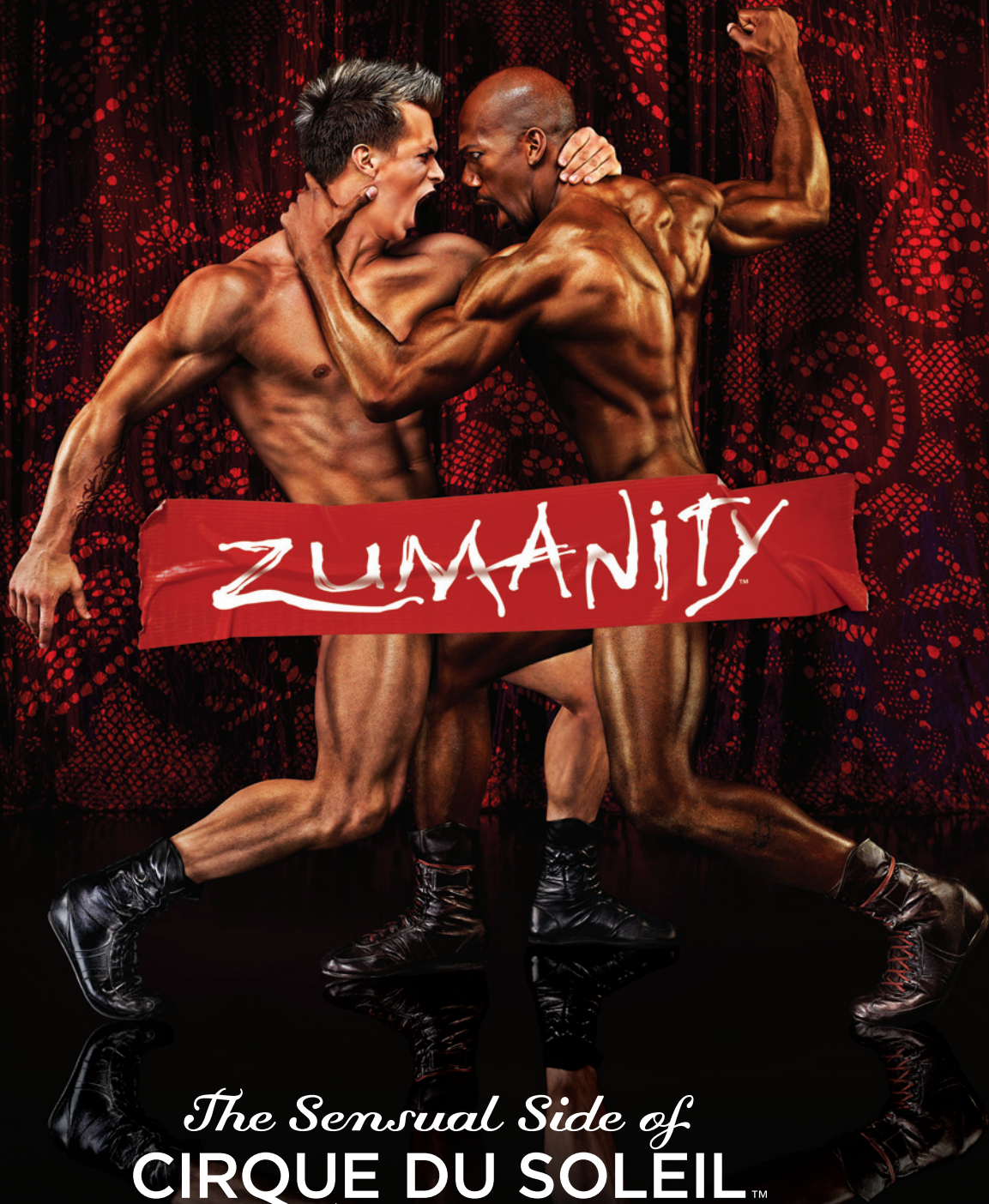
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A portrait of John Eisele, a man with short, dark hair, wearing a dark suit, a dark shirt, and a red and white striped tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile.

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About the Cover:

Photography by Marc Garcia

CRUSH, the local organization dedicated to promoting non-smoking through out the LGBT community, graces our November cover, and it's about time. Their efforts are making a huge difference in the health and lives of the members or our community.

NOVEMBER 2011 **THE HOLIDAY** ISSUE

COVER

**VEGAS PEEPS**

CHECK OUT THESE ALL-STAR ATHLETES FROM THE LOCAL LAS VEGAS GAY SOFTBALL LEAGUE.

THE SMITH CENTER

THE SMITH CENTER: BUILT TO BE A WORLD CLASS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER & THE CULTURAL HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY.

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CRUSH

CRUSH, the local organization dedicated to promoting non-smoking through out the LGBT community, is holding their biggest party of the year, their annual "CRUSH Stocking Stuffer Event."

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a note from our EDITOR

I love the holidays, as all the parties of the season take over where the pool parties and BBQ's leave off. In this issue we searched for some unique gifts but would also like our readers to think about shopping locally. Many of our advertisers who support our community and QVegas offer some of the best of what Las Vegas has to offer. Visit our Yellow Pages section at Qvegas.com and get to know some of these companies. We thank each of them for their help in supporting QVegas.

This issue is dedicated to CRUSH, a non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness in the LGBT community of the health risks of smoking, promoting smoke-free environments to socialize, and assisting those who want to quit. We invite you to participate at their holiday "Stocking Stuffer" event, and obtain information for you or someone you love who needs assistance in quitting tobacco.

Two organizations that need your holiday generosity this season are AFAN and the St. Therese Center. AFAN hosts their annual Children's Christmas party and is in need of new toys for all ages, so look for drop off points in the coming weeks. St. Therese provides holiday food baskets for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Their "Underwear and Sock" program is always in need of donations as well.

Let the holiday parties begin!

Kelly McFarlane Smith



WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

Do you have something on your mind? Do you have something to say about an article in QVegas or any topic of interest to our readers? Do you have an idea for a future story? We want to hear from you! Simply send an e-mail to Editor@QVegas.com. Letters to the Editor may be printed in a future issue if signed and may be edited for clarity or length.



EDITOR

Kelly McFarlane Smith

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

& TV/ENTERTAINMENT PERSONALITY
Steve Erics

EXECUTIVE CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Benjamin Lemke

IT/ WEB MANAGER

Noah Henderson

ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE

Chris Miller

COPY EDITOR

Daniel Hanna

CONTRIBUTORS

William Bessette

Richard Davis

Jill Roth

Carissa Ramirez

Shevelle Chambers

Derek Washington

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6000 S. Eastern Ave., Ste. 7B
Las Vegas, NV 89119
Phone 702-650-0636
Fax 702-650-0641
E-mail Editor@QVegas.com

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Q news

FEMALE FORCE: CHER

She possesses a career that has spanned almost five decades, and she looks as amazing today as she did when she began first performing with her first husband, Sonny Bono. Now Bluewater Comics has got her in their latest issue of "Female Force." "Female Force: Cher" is the new biography comic book due out December of 2011. It shares how the woman born Cherilyn Sarkisian came to be known by one name - Cher! "We have been creating the biographies of the famous in a sequential art form for almost two years and it was only a matter of time before we got to this icon," said Darren G. Davis, publisher of

Bluewater Comics. "Her life

has been marked by failures and successes, but she still stands boldly for herself and for her friends and we had to tell her story." "Female Force: Cher" turns back time and tells how this platinum-selling singer became an award-winning actress and a performer for the ages. Writer Marc Shapiro says that Cher's life and career "reads like a comic book." "The clothes, the times, the attitudes of the decades she's lived through. The different styles of music she's been involved in. So much of what Cher has experienced is so flamboyant, over the top and just plain out there," said

Shapiro. "She has been very much the real life equivalent of a superhero, and writing about Cher, to a large degree, has been just about letting my imagination go." The 32-page comic features art by Zach Bassett and inks by Warren Montgomery, as well as a cover provided by DC Comics' Joe Philips. The "Female Force" comic series offers a broad examination of strong and influential women who are shaping modern history and culture. For more information visit www.bluewaterprod.com. ■



BAD SEX

Who doesn't love sex? But what happens when that love becomes an obsession or addiction? Or you don't feel the love at all? Sexual issues – from promiscuity to sexual phobias and love addiction can destroy lives – and in some cases end them. Noted sex specialist Christopher Donaghue has dedicated his professional life to helping people reclaim control of their sex lives through intense individual and group therapy sessions. In the docu-reality series "Bad Sex," the cameras capture the dynamic group sessions and the explosive and frequently heart-felt exchanges among clients. "Bad Sex" will offer a frank and shocking behind-the-scenes look at the process of healing severe sexual issues – both inside and outside the therapy room. The 10-episode series "Bad Sex" premieres Friday, November 4th at 9PM ET/PT on Logo.

"Bad Sex" follows the real-life experiences of 10 diverse participants undergoing an intensive, two-month program with sexuality expert Chris Donaghue. Male and female, gay and straight, the participants range in age from 20 to forty-years-old and arrive at the group with issues ranging from dangerous promiscuity to clinical frigidity, from violent sex addiction to compulsive public sex. Under his supervision, they'll participate in a unique sex therapy group program where they'll finally address their deep-rooted issues around sex, infidelity, trust, relational intimacy and sexual addiction. ■

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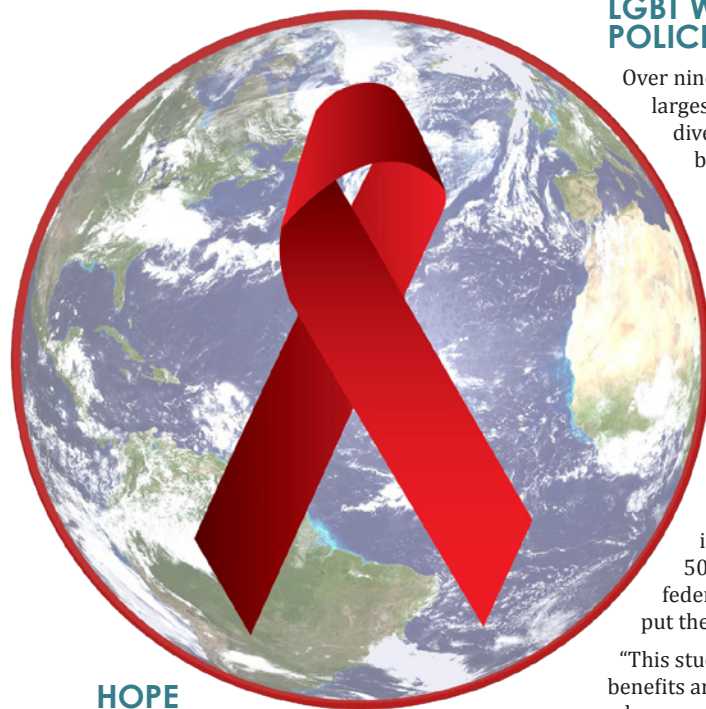
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HOPE

Nevada Aids Project a Las Vegas based nonprofit that is dedicated to education, prevention, research and advocacy is hosting "Hope: The Power Of The Human Spirit" just in time for World AIDS Day at Tropicana Hotel Thanksgiving weekend, Saturday, November 26.

The Hope Show is the first in what promises to be an annual starting the evening at 9 p.m. with a cocktail party, auction and showing of original Las Vegas show girl costumes from Follies Bregier with the highlight being the new show "Hope: The Power Of The Human Spirit." This special show, inside the Tiffany Theatre will feature Las Vegas Strip performers and headliners and special appearance by Las Vegas Men's Chorus and Dr. David Wyles.

"We are so excited to partner with Tropicana Hotel for the launch of Hope and look forward to a successful fundraiser for our Agency and bring awareness to World AIDS Day," said Dennis Dunn, Executive Director, Nevada AIDS Project. Tropicana is offering a special weekend for visitors and locals Thanksgiving weekend that include 2 night accommodations, 2 tickets to Hope, 2 tickets to Brad Garrett's Comedy Lounge and \$240 dinner and wine pairing at Biscayne Steak House for \$399. Call 702-739-222 or visit troplv.com for reservation and when booking mention Hope: The Power of The Human Spirit. For General Admission, \$45-55 with special VIP Booth seating available for more information visit nevadaaidsproject.org ■

LGBT WORK RELATED POLICIES

Over ninety percent of the country's largest companies state that diversity policies and generous benefits packages are good for their corporate bottom line, according to a new study from UCLA's Williams Institute. The study finds that more than half of these companies specifically state that their policies prohibiting LGBT discrimination or extending domestic partner benefits are good for business. The study is based on a review of statements issued by the top 50 Fortune 500 companies and the top 50 federal contractors when they first put these policies in place.

"This study highlights that economic benefits are a significant incentive when companies adopt LGBT-inclusive policies," said Christy Mallory, Williams Legal Research Fellow. "As employers consider adopting similar policies, and as legislatures consider codifying such policies into law, this research informs the economic consequences of their decisions," stated Mallory.

The past decade has seen a large increase in the number of corporations adopting LGBT-related workplace policies. Among the top 50 Fortune 500 companies, 48 now include sexual orientation in their non-discrimination policies and 70% include gender identity. Additionally, 88% extend domestic partner benefits, including health insurance to the same-sex domestic partners of employees. Among the top 50 federal contractors, 81% include sexual orientation in their non-discrimination policies and 44% include gender identity. Over half extend domestic partner benefits, including health insurance, to the same-sex domestic partners of employees.

"The specific reasons why these companies felt their LGBT inclusive policies had a positive business impact went beyond improving their efforts to recruit and retain the most talented employees," said Brad Sears, Roberta A. Conroy Senior Scholar of Law & Policy and Williams Institute Executive Director. "Companies linked these policies to improving employee morale and productivity, to meeting the needs of their diverse customers, and to sparking ideas and innovation through employees,

including LGBT employees, who bring different perspectives and experiences."

Beyond business justifications, the study also notes that companies adopt LGBT inclusive policies because they are consistent with their corporate values of fairness and respect and because doing so is simply "the right thing to do." ■

LIFE'S A BALL WORLD AIDS DAY EVENT

December 1st, 2011, Nevada AIDS Project, in conjunction with sponsors Tropicana Las Vegas and Club Nikki, is presenting "Life's a Ball, A Celebration of Life – A Journey Towards the Cure" benefiting Nevada AIDS Project, a non-profit corporation.

Nevada AIDS Project produces the HIV/AIDS reference Guide and facilitates an essential furniture program for those affected with HIV/AIDS.

Festivities for Life's a Ball begin at 7pm in the Tropicana Night Club. Local celebrity host Chris Saldaña and guest presenters will entertain and introduce honorees including two Lifetime Achievement Awards sponsored by MTV.

Scheduled entertainment includes James Vaughn, Las Vegas Men's Chorus and several invited celebrity guests. Along with a fashion show sponsored by Pull-in Undergarments and Saks Fifth Ave. Evening Wear. The night concludes with the Celebration of Life Party with guest DJs.

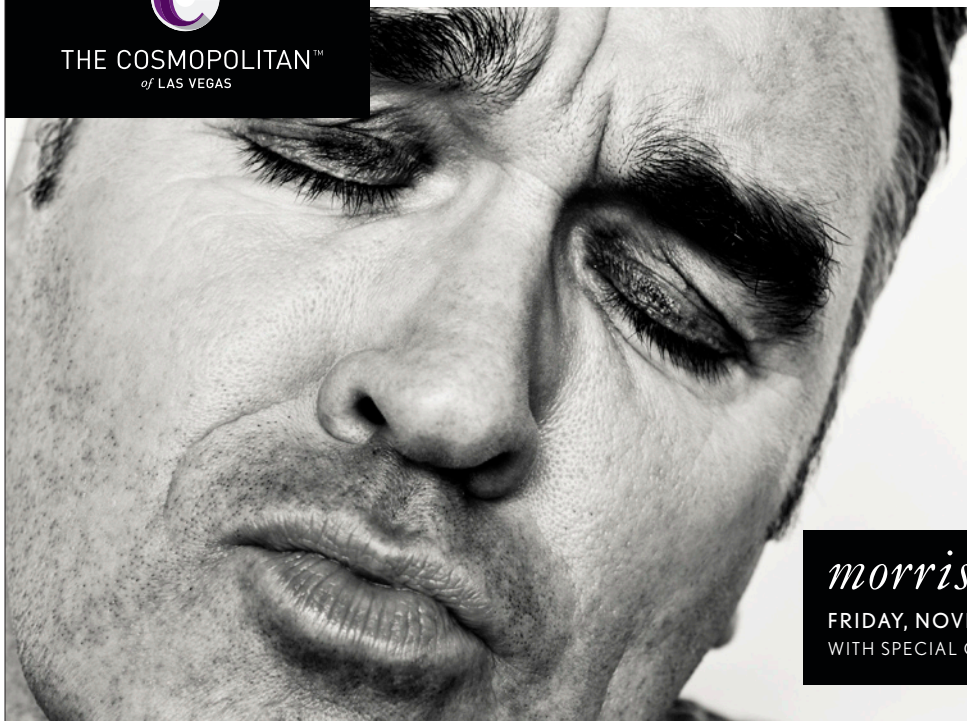
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Gay & Lesbian Community Center News

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER FOR LGBTQ YOUTH

On November 17th, The Center will host its fourth annual community Thanksgiving dinner to benefit LGBTQ youth. This event will provide a home cooked, family-style meal for approximately 75 young people in The Center's community room. We are seeking volunteers who can contribute homemade food items – from the turkey to the pie (and vegan options too!) – for our attendees, participate as servers throughout our buffet line or donate other items, such as plates, cups, utensils, tablecloths and decorations to make this a special and successful event.

Contact Mel Goodwin at mel@thecenterlv.com or (702) 733-9800 for more information or to sign up as a volunteer.



13TH ANNUAL TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE VIGIL

The International Transgender Day of Remembrance is held annually in mid-November to raise awareness of hate crimes committed against transgender people and honor those who have lost their lives due to anti-transgender violence. Please join The Center and many other community organizations at the UNLV Student Union, 2nd Floor, Hall A & B, 4505 S Maryland Parkway - on Friday, November 18th from 7:00-10:00 pm for the 13th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil. Call Jamie Lee Sprague at (702) 420-1294 for additional details.

For more information on the International Transgender Day of Remembrance, visit www.transgenderdor.org.



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CHIPPENDALES HAVE

NO H8

The NOH8 Campaign, a photographic silent protest created in direct response to the passage of Proposition 8, features subjects with duct tape over their mouths, symbolizing their voices being silenced by Prop 8 and similar legislation around the world, with "NOH8" painted on one cheek in protest.

Since its inception, the NOH8 Campaign has grown to over 13,000 faces and continues to grow at an exponential rate. The campaign began with portraits of everyday Californians and soon grew to include politicians, military personnel, artists, celebrities, and more.

The NOH8 Campaign has been featured in hundreds of local and national news programs and publications.

Recently during Las Vegas Pride The Chippendales, who will celebrate their 10th anniversary at the Rio in February 2012, recently participated in the photo campaign.

Through their "Chippendales Cares" program, the sexy studs take part in events throughout the year to raise awareness and support for many local and national charities like the St. Therese Center (HIV/AIDS outreach), S.A.F.E House (battered womens shelter), Susan G. Komen Foundation (breast cancer activism), Toys for Tots, The Salvation Army and various community programs. And to clarify a myth for their many gay fans, men are always welcome at Chippendales!

- Randy Slovacek



BODY & SOUL

Actor, singer, dancer and Broadway veteran Rick Faugno is moving his one man show, "Body & Soul", to Friday nights in Shimmer Cabaret at the Las Vegas Hilton beginning Oct. 21, 2011.

While still performing as Frankie Valli in "Jersey Boys," Faugno began spreading his wings and collaborating with some of the most talented musicians in Las Vegas. In May 2011, Faugno debuted his one man show "Body & Soul" at the Las Vegas Hilton. His final performance as Frankie Valli in the Tony award-winning show "Jersey Boys" was Oct. 9.

"Every artist has to do new things and challenge themselves in new ways," stated Faugno. "I've had an amazing career so far and will miss 'Jersey Boys'; however, I'm truly excited about my new show, 'Body & Soul' at the Las Vegas Hilton. It encompasses my early stage influences and my original work in music and dance. I look forward to performing for Friday night audiences."

Faugno performs in "Body & Soul" every Friday beginning Oct. 21st at 8:30 p.m. in Shimmer Cabaret at the Las Vegas Hilton. Tickets are \$29.00 and \$39.00 (plus tax and service charge), and can be purchased at the Las Vegas Hilton box office or by logging onto www.lv Hilton.com or by phone at (702) 732-5755 or (800) 222-5361. Fans can join Rick Faugno's Fan Page on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/rickfaugno>) and follow on Twitter (@rfaugno). ■



LAURA CROFT

Laura Croft, star of E!'s "Holly's World," introduces the ultimate experience in higher nightlife education with "Night School 4 Girls". Designed to take the art of seduction to the next level, ladies learn pole and burlesque dancing from the pros as real Las Vegas showgirls guide ladies on how to release their inner bombshells.

Created and produced by SPI Entertainment, a leader in world-class entertainment for women, "Night School 4 Girls" is open every Friday through Sunday afternoon in the Thunder From Down Under Showroom at Excalibur Hotel & Casino. Packages start at \$39.00. For reservations, contact 702-597-7600 or visit www.nightschool4girls.com. You can also follow Night School 4 Girls on Twitter @NightSchool4GLV. The Thunder From Down Under Showroom is located at Excalibur, 3850 Las Vegas Blvd South.



▲ RAVELLA

Ravella at Lake Las Vegas is a hidden gem, where the desert gives way to a shimmering lake, white sandy beach and lush grounds in a romantic Italian-inspired oasis, perfect for those looking to experience a different side of Sin City with unmatched recreation and relaxation. Although the resort, which opened February 11th of this year, is located just 17 miles from the world-famous Strip, the serene lake setting and Mediterranean architecture make guests feel as though they have traveled afar to a colorful waterside village in Italy.

While there, find inner peace and strength through meditative yoga classes while taking in the spectacular view from the Ponte Vecchio Bridge with YOGA OVER WATER, offered Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. and Sundays at 8:00 a.m. Breathe in fresh air over the water as you participate in Yin Yoga Saturdays at 10, or Mixed Flow on Sundays at 8. Led by certified instructor Randall Nester, classes run 90 minutes and are open to all levels of fitness. Instruction fees are \$20.00 per person per session, with locals receiving a 50% discount with valid Nevada I.D. ■

CHIPOTLE

All you Fashion Show Mall passionistas who don't need a reason to shop at Las Vegas' premier shopping playground won't need a reason to eat healthy either now that Chipotle's 12th Las Vegas store opened in the Mall last month. The fast food chain that boasts it has a vision for fast food that is "Food with Integrity" is located at the corner of Las Vegas Blvd., South and Spring Mountain Road in the Great Hall of the mall. Chipotle's commitment to Food With Integrity has led the company to serve more naturally raised meat and local produce than any other restaurant company in the country, about 100 million pounds in all for 2011. In addition, 100% of Chipotle's dairy is made with milk from cows that are not treated with the synthetic hormone rBGH and an increasing percentage of its dairy now comes from cows that are raised outdoors on pastures. So, happy shopping! And happy eating! ■



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Pre-registration is required, for more information, times and location of seminar call 888-208-8081 or visit thelifegroupla.org. This seminar is sponsored in part by Golden Rainbow. ■



READY ON THE SET: CORONATION XIV

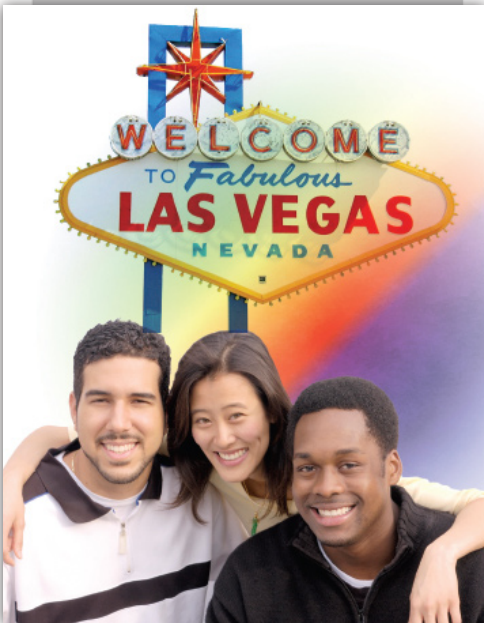
The Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire, Inc. (IRSCDEI) and its 13th Elected Empress, Katrina Davenport-Jewel, The Regent College of Emperors, Board of Director's, and General Membership of Las Vegas, NV have announced "Coronation XIV – 'READY ON THE SET'" December 1st – 4th, 2011 to be held at The Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino in fabulous Downtown Las Vegas and The World Market Center. They are offering multiple exciting events surrounding Coronation.

The In-Town Show & Awards will be held Thursday, December 1, the Out-of-Town Show & Bar Crawl will be held Friday, December 2nd and a Poolside Reception with Katrina is slated for Saturday, December 3rd. Tickets for all events NOW available on their website at www.desertempire.org. ■

ANIMAL FOUNDATION

Lindsay and her boyfriend came to The Animal Foundation on Labor Day, looking for a new addition to their family. After learning that the dog they were hoping to adopt had already found a forever home, the pair wandered the dog adoption bungalows. With 22 bungalows, each containing 12 kennels, they saw quite a few dogs. After wandering a while, Lindsay stopped. "I asked my boyfriend if he remembered seeing a white dog with brindle coloring. We originally went right past her...not thinking much of her," she recalls. There was a reason she was drawn back to the puppy. Lindsay knew right then and there she'd be a great addition to their home, and a great sister to the couple's other dogs.

"Princess is still in the puppy stage, but she brings so much laughter to our home," says Lindsay. "We love her. I never knew how great pit bulls could be. Training and responsible ownership make all the difference." Lindsay loves Princess and will tell anyone who will listen about the joy of saving a life by adopting a pet. For more information on The Animal Foundation and pets available for adoption, please visit animalfoundation.com. ■





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SHOWCASING
THE TALENTS OF
ACCLAIMED ARTIST
ROBERT DEYBER

WHO HAS COME
TO BE KNOWN AS
A MODERN VISUAL
ARTISTIC MINSTREL

By: William Bessette

With Las Vegas pushing hard towards a cultural revolution, a result has been a plethora of art galleries popping up, showing a myriad of classical and modern pieces. One of the most recent openings has been the Martin Lawrence Galleries at the Forum Shops at Caesar's Palace. This new Las Vegas gallery took the quote "everything is bigger in Vegas" quite literally by opening what may be one of the largest galleries in the United States with more than 26,000 square feet of gallery, exhibition, and event space. In addition to classics such as Warhol and Chagall, the gallery has been proud to announce the showcasing the talents of acclaimed artist Robert Deyber, who has come to be known as a modern visual artistic minstrel and is often referred to as a storyteller with a paintbrush.

Considering his ongoing fascination with Las Vegas, Deyber is excited to bring his collection, which includes some Vegas inspired pieces, to the Martin Lawrence Galleries at the Forum Shops. "I'm really fascinated by Las Vegas, just the whole energy of the place," he explains. "So the gentleman that owns the gallery recommended that I do some pieces based on gaming and Las Vegas and things like that, so I basically just came up with some ideas that involved gaming related topics and went with it. I'm happy to say they have become very successful and people are gravitating towards them."

Unlike many artists, Deyber wasn't always a professional artist, even if he has been fascinated with art since his youth. "I was always



a painter, since I was ten years old," he says, "but it was always a hobby. When I went to go to college, my father said 'oh, no, no, no, I'm not gonna' pay for college if you're going to pursue an art career.' So I went for business and ended up being an airline executive. Then, when nine-eleven came along, they lost billions and laid off a big chunk of middle management people. So basically, I took a [severance] package and... ended up deciding to pursue a career in art."

Not only is his fame compared to his time in the business a rarity, but Deyber's themes

and construction methods are also quite novel when compared to his contemporaries, as he explains. "My theme that I work in his that I take idioms, euphemisms, and sometimes even old book titles and I visually interpret them... one day I thought to myself, 'I wonder if anyone has ever thought to visually interpret all these wacky phrases that we have in the English language, like 'A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush,' and so on, theirs hundreds of them. So I just went with it and it really took off."

"Where my method is concerned, as far as I know I paint completely differently than any other artist," he continues. "The way I paint is very, very genetic. I have never done one painting from start to finish. The way I'll work is if I'm doing a series of paintings, for two weeks I will just do skies, you know, take up a canvas and lay in the sky on each one. Then I'll go back and lay in the landscapes on each one. Then finally I'll lay in what I call 'the story,' whether that be the subject matter or characters. I really enjoy the way that I do it and it's basically the only way I can paint."

With so many new artists hitting the scene, and much of it carrying the same themes, Robert Deyber's art is a refreshing new offering that carries essences of many of his contemporaries, including Salvadore Dali. In addition to original paintings and lithographs, collectors will also have the opportunity to purchase *Robert Deyber, A Language All His Own*, the 130 page catalogue of print and painting images and *Robert Deyber Miniatures*, both published by Jenkintown Press. For more information on the Martin Lawrence Galleries call (702)991-5990. ■

Having a bad hare day?

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Robert Deyber, *Bad Hare Day*, hand-crafted lithograph, 11 × 12 inches

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The Nutcracker

at Paris Las Vegas

by Richard Davis

Christmas in Las Vegas just isn't Christmas without an evening at the Nevada Ballet Theatre's (NBT) magical Nutcracker Ballet at the Paris Théâtre at Paris Las Vegas. "We are delighted to be celebrating our 30th anniversary performing the Nutcracker for Las Vegas at the beautiful Paris Théâtre," said Beth Barbre, NBT's executive director and CEO. "We are grateful to Caesars Entertainment for hosting us for the third straight year." Jonathan Halkyard, senior vice-president and CFO at Caesars Entertainment and a Caesars Foundation trustee, said, "We are proud to be hosting NBT and the Nutcracker." Halkyard said, "We strongly believe in contributing to the enrichment of our community by supporting cultural organizations such as NBT."

NBT's production of the Nutcracker is choreographed by Peter Anastos in an unusual but enchanting take on the familiar Christmas classic. Though true to the original story line, Anastos says this production has "some unique elements that audiences won't find in other versions." Anastos' whimsical vision is reflected in the colorful sets and costumes by designer A. Christina Giannini. Examples of the delightful change-ups that Anastos makes include a somewhat sinister life-sized mechanical toy mouse that thrills the children in the party scene and a life-sized Nutcracker doll who performs a lovely pas de deux with the young Clara. Anastos also replaces the traditional "Mother Ginger" divertissement with "Salt Water Taffy Sailors" performed by charming young student dancers who arrive on stage in a boat.

The youngest dancer in the Nutcracker is seven years old, and performing in the Nutcracker allows young students from NBT's Academy the opportunity to gain valuable performance experience while sharing the stage with seasoned professionals. But don't worry that you'll be seeing performances that only a mother would love—even the youngest dancer gives a star turn in this high-quality, world-class production that includes sophisticated choreography for

adult performers. This level of training and performance doesn't come cheap, and NBT encourages Nutcracker ticket holders to enjoy a festive holiday dessert buffet at NBT's second annual Sugar Plum Party, to be held this year at the Sugar Factory American Brasserie at Paris Las Vegas on Sunday, December 18th, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. You'll have a chance to meet your favorite Sugar Plum fairies at the

Party! Tickets are \$50 per person and \$40 for kids 12 and under, with the purchase of a Nutcracker ticket. All proceeds help support the work of the Academy of the Nevada Ballet Theatre. Call the Paris Théâtre Box Office at 702-946-4567 for more information.



NBT invites you to meet an adult enchantress when Eva Longoria of "Desperate Housewives" fame is honored at NBT's annual Black and White Ball fundraiser at ARIA Resort and Casino at CityCenter on Saturday, January 28th, 2012, sponsored by Cartier. The Black and White Ball has been one of Las Vegas' premier social events since 1985. Each year NBT honors an entertainer as the Woman of the Year. Past recipients have included Chita Rivera, Celine Dion, Ann-Margaret, Paula Abdul, Bette Miller, Marie Osmond and Priscilla Presley. The money raised funds NBT productions, helps NBT provide quality instruction at the NBT Academy, and funds "Future Dance," an outreach education program to expose at-risk students to the

art of dance. Longoria is being honored both for her professional achievement and for her philanthropic work, such as her support for Eva's Heroes for developmentally challenged children. For more information and tickets go to www.NevadaBallet.org

NBT will present the Nutcracker at the Paris Théâtre for ten holiday performances, December 17th through 24th. Tickets are now on sale at the Paris Théâtre Box Office, 702-946-4567, or online at www.NevadaBallet.org. NBT season subscribers receive priority seating and discounts on additional tickets. Don't miss out on the holiday magic! ■



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 **the animal foundation**

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THE PEOPLE'S ART CENTER

By Richard Davis

**"Fanfare for the Common Man,"
the 20th century American
masterwork by gay composer
Aaron Copland was selected by
The Smith Center for the Performing
Arts as the "muse" to inspire Las
Vegas artist Tim Bavington's large
synthetic polymer painting that will
dominate the second floor of The
Smith Center's own masterwork,
the 2,050 seat Reynolds Hall. The
theme and the use of a local artist
capture The Smith Center's vision
of itself "as the new cultural heart
of our community," said Richard
Johnson, vice president and
CFO of The Smith Center. States
Johnson, "We're building a world-
class performing arts center for the
people who live and work here in
Las Vegas."**

"The Smith Center was built by the community, for the community," proclaims Amber Stidham, public relations manager for The Smith Center. The LGBT community is central to The Smith Center's vision of community. Richard Johnson represents The Smith Center as a non-profit member of the QVegas Business Alliance. In addition, prominent LGBT community leaders serve on The Smith Center's Board of Directors, including Charles Atwood, Robert Forbuss, Sig Rogich and Roger Thomas. The diversity of The Smith Center's board is key to their vision of the arts in Southern Nevada.

Forged from a community "call to action" in the early 90's by leading gaming and business leaders, including Steve and Elaine Wynn, Don Snyder, (then president of Boyd Gaming, who now serves as chair of The Smith Center's board) and John Goolsby, (then-president of the Howard Hughes Corporation), the gleaming stainless steel tower of The Smith Center has risen through the strong support of the Las Vegas community. That support showed itself when the Las Vegas-based Donald W. Reynolds Foundation gave a landmark gift of \$50 million in 2005 in honor of Fred W. Smith and his wife, Mary. The various lily-inspired design elements found throughout the Center are a delicate nod to Mary Smith's love for lilies. Smith is the chair of the Reynolds Foundation and the retired chair of the Donrey Media Group, the late Donald Reynolds' media empire, and the former publisher of the Las Vegas Review-Journal. The Reynolds Foundation followed up its initial gift with an additional \$100 million, making its total gift the largest philanthropic donation in Nevada history and the second largest donation to the performing arts in the United States.

"The people of Las Vegas made it happen," Charles Atwood said in a recent interview with QVegas about The Smith Center's anticipated opening in March 2012.

Atwood, who serves on its Executive Committee, is being honored as Man of the Year 2011 at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada's Honorarium in November. The total \$470 million cost for The Smith Center has already been paid for through a creative combination of public and private funding. Among the private businesses and citizens who have contributed are the 54 Founders who each gave \$1 million toward The Smith Center's capital campaign. The LGBT community's Atwood is among those Founders whose names will be permanently displayed in the pink Verona marble in the Grand Lobby of Reynolds Hall.

The Smith Center was designed by David M. Schwarz Architects and executed by HKS Architects. The design reflects the 1930's Art Deco details of the Hoover Dam, capturing in 2,458 tons of Indiana limestone and 4,000 tons of structural steel the mood of that first great public works project that defined Las Vegas to the world. It too, was built in the midst of a national depression. Though monumental, The Smith Center, (like Hoover Dam), possesses a delicate grace, culminating in a 16-story bell tower that houses a four-octave carillon, comprised of 47 handcrafted bronze bells, making The Smith Center itself a musical instrument. The tower is topped by a stainless steel crown reflecting Nevada's official nickname, "The Silver State."

The project's five acre campus houses three performing arts buildings, along with the Discovery Children's Museum, surrounded by the 1.7 acre Symphony Park. Reynolds Hall, with its dramatic stage and full orchestra pit capable of seating up to 100 musicians is an architectural masterpiece with stunning balconies that sweep the eye upwards to a domed ceiling of shimmering light. The Grand Lobby boasts custom-designed terrazzo floors with walls lined by Verona

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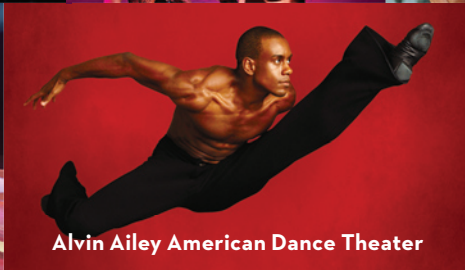
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marble. The grand staircase's stainless steel Art Deco railing lifts one's gaze up and into the hall. Custom-designed cone chandeliers descend dramatically from the ceiling and resemble the turbines at the Hoover Dam. The sculpture in the Grand Lobby by Benjamin Victor is drawn from the occult-like "Winged Figures of the Republic", created by Oskar J.W. Hansen for the Hoover Dam Memorial.

The Boman Pavilion, Reynolds Hall's cozy sister theater, seats 258 cocktail-style and will feature cabaret and jazz performances. The Boman was named in honor of Jeane Boman, the mother of Dr. Keith Boman, vice chair of The Smith Center's board and a Reynolds Foundation trustee. Bay window balconies grace the Boman's second floor and overlook Symphony Park. Modern Western artist Ed Mell has been commissioned to paint four paintings in homage to the desert southwest for the Pavilion's lobby. The top floors of the Pavilion will house a business center to provide support to community arts organizations. The final building in The Smith Center complex will be a 250-seat studio theater. The studio theater's stage will have a sprung floor for

local community." Says Johnson, "Strong ticket sales are already demonstrating that there is great demand in Las Vegas for the performances that will soon appear on our stages." The Smith Center's inaugural season includes four Broadway blockbusters: "The Color Purple," "Mary Poppins," "Million Dollar Quartet," and "Memphis," which won the 2010 Tony award for Best Musical. Even in its selection of touring shows The Smith Center's focus is on the local community. "Million Dollar Quartet" is perhaps a nod at Las Vegas' unique obsession with Elvis. Season subscribers to the "Broadway Las Vegas Series" lock in their seats for 2012's production of "Wicked". The Smith Center's other offerings in music, dance and stage—from Yo-Yo Ma and "Sweet Honey in the Rock" to Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and "Golda's Balcony"—reflects The Smith's Center's commitment to diversity. Special attractions include appearances by gay and lesbian humorists David Sedaris and Lily Tomlin. For the in Boman Pavilion's Cabaret Jazz series comes local favorite Clint Holmes, along with such renowned artists as Branford Marsalis, Andrea Marcovicci and LGBT favorite Barbara Cook.



Straight No Chaser

theater or dance, ideal as a rehearsal space and for black box and children's theater, community and private events.

As beautiful as The Smith Center is, the practical functioning of a performing arts center came first in the design process. The acoustical design company, Akustiks, led by Paul Scarbrough, oversaw the design of everything from flooring to lighting sconces that contributed to the acoustical structure of The Smith Center spaces. The Smith Center's design includes a sub-basement of concrete 36 inches thick to absorb sounds from the nearby Union Pacific tracks. The Smith Center's roof contains a 12-inch thick slab of concrete with an air gap, and then is layered with another 10 inches of interior sound deadening materials to absorb the noises of downtown Las Vegas. In addition, The Smith Center will be the first performing arts center of its size and scope to be LEED certified for environmental sustainability.

"We will be bringing something for everyone," CFO Richard Johnson said, "Broadway, classical music, dance, jazz-cabaret, and all kinds of music." Amber Stidham, PR manager said, "Our price points start at \$24 per ticket to make our programming affordable for the

For tickets to the Broadway Las Vegas series or any other upcoming event at The Smith Center, log on to www.thesmithcenter.com or call the box office at 702-982-7805 (temporarily housed at the Holsum Lofts at 241 West Charleston Blvd.). With their "Design Your Own" series, you can choose from 20 shows and save up to 15 percent off each ticket.

Further anchoring The Smith Center within the local performing arts community, The Smith Center's Richard Johnson confirms, "The Smith Center will provide a new home for our resident companies the Las Vegas Philharmonic and the Nevada Ballet Theatre." Las Vegas Philharmonic president and CEO Jeri Crawford, who along with husband Richard, own the familiar Green Valley Grocery chain as well as Crawford Oil, states, "The Smith Center experience will be an evening of fully experiencing the arts, from the excitement of entering the new performing arts center to the quality of the sound and staging." Patricia Pieper Fink, marketing director for the Philharmonic says, "Because we are splitting our season between Artemus Ham Hall at UNLV and The Smith Center, we are offering a mini-series for new subscribers who want to experience the Philharmonic at The Smith Center."

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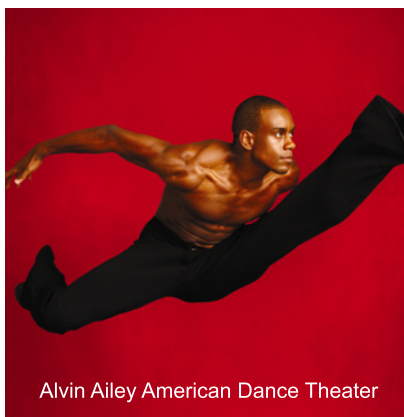
For the Philharmonic's inaugural concert in May 1999, under the baton of founding music director and conductor laureate Hal Weller, the Philharmonic performed Mahler's "Resurrection" Symphony No. 2. Now, thirteen years later under the baton of Maestro David Itkin, the Philharmonic will reprise Mahler's astounding masterwork for their Smith Center debut on March 24th, 2012, with 250 performers on stage, including two choirs. Jeri Crawford said being a resident company at The Smith Center will give the Philharmonic a "national stage while deepening its community connections and broadening its audience base." States Crawford "The Philharmonic sometimes felt isolated from the community in their current home at Ham Hall on the UNLV campus. We're like the best kept secret in Las Vegas." Crawford said that at The Smith Center the Philharmonic will become better "integrated into Las Vegas culture. We will become part of the fabric of the community." In the future, Crawford would like to see the development of a Philharmonic chamber music series in the Boman Pavilion and she would also like to see the Philharmonic perform concerts inspired by Hispanic and Asian music. "To say thank you, the Philharmonic plans a "Hard Hat" concert for The Smith Center's construction workers before the official opening on March 10, 2012", said the Philharmonic's Patricia Fink.

James Canfield, artistic director for the Nevada Ballet Theatre (NBT), said in an interview about the upcoming NBT season, "NBT stepping foot on that stage is a highlight of giant proportion." NBT will be celebrating their 40th anniversary with a gala concert and their official debut at The Smith Center on May 5th, 2012. Canfield said, "Our gala will acknowledge a monumental moment in our history that honors the individuals who have supported and brought dance to the City of Las Vegas for forty years and have gifted all of us with our new home, The Smith Center for the Performing Arts." The Las Vegas Philharmonic's Patricia Fink said that the Philharmonic is in negotiation with NBT to provide live music for the gala performance. NBT also looks forward to continuing their popular "Studio Series" in The Smith Center's more intimate studio theater space where audiences will be able to experience NBT dancers up close and personal in works choreographed by the dancers themselves.

Other Las Vegas arts organizations look forward to possible collaborations at The Smith Center. Opera Las Vegas' artistic director Gloria Allen, said, "We would love to collaborate on a production with the Philharmonic at The Smith Center." She said that Opera Las Vegas' recent sold-out production of "Tosca," staged at the Nicholas Horn Theater on the Cheyenne campus at College of Southern Nevada, caught the eye of the local performing arts community. The production was conducted

by acclaimed Metropolitan Opera Maestro Gregory Buchalter with full orchestra and Met stars Elizabeth Blancke-Biggs, Raúl Melo and Daniel Sutin in the leads. The excellent opera and children's choruses featured talented local singers, and local artists were also featured in supporting roles. Allen hopes to stage Opera Las Vegas' spring production of "Don Giovanni" at The Smith Center.

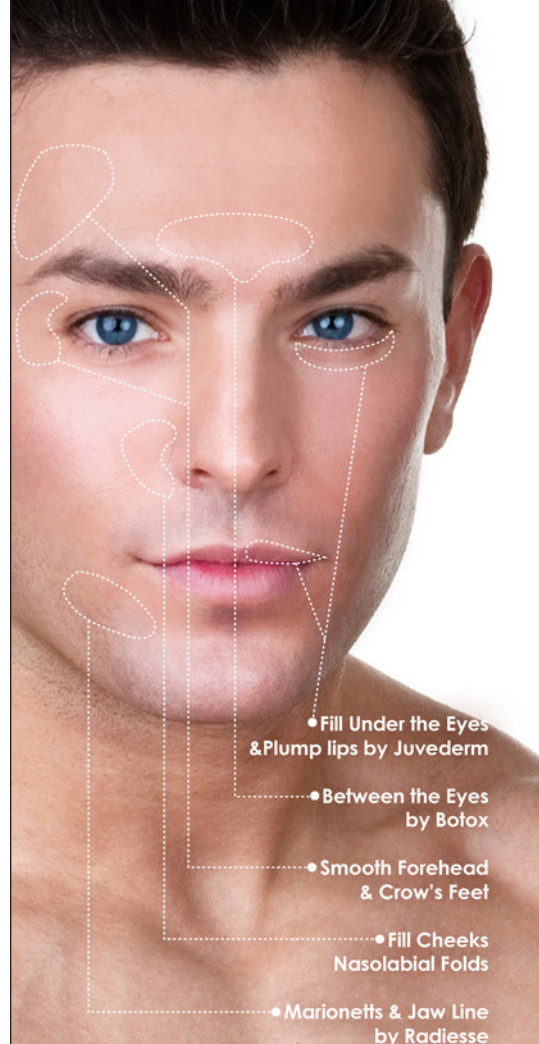
In a past interview with QVegas, Bernard Gaddis, artistic director of the Las Vegas Contemporary Dance Theatre (LVCDT), spoke about looking forward to 2014, when LVCDT will host the International Association of Blacks in Dance Conference at The Smith Center. Gaddis said, "I believe in a holistic approach to the arts and the whole Las Vegas arts community will be involved in the conference." Besides exciting performances from world class companies, the conference will bring master classes and lectures on dance to the community. The Smith Center's Richard Johnson said, "The Smith Center is busily scheduling local arts events and exploring ways to work with local arts organizations in our facilities. We hope that the focus on the arts with The Smith Center's opening will raise awareness about the many arts organizations active in our community."



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

There is some tension in this difficult economy between the vision of The Smith Center as the heart of the local arts community in Las Vegas, and the struggle that The Smith Center's resident companies experience in raising funds. The Philharmonic's Jeri Crawford says ruefully, "Long-time donors will call me and say, 'Oh, I just made a contribution to The Smith Center.' But not one dime of that goes to the Philharmonic." Patricia Pieper Fink, marketing director for the Philharmonic, said that the community needs to continue their support of the resident arts organizations if The Smith Center is to realize its vision. Local Pulitzer-nominated playwright, Edward D Padilla agrees. "There are no community theaters in Las Vegas that have full fly space. If The Smith Center opens its doors to local groups for rental or subsidizes local productions, great." Padilla, nominated for a Pulitzer for his AIDS drama, "Fallen Guardian Angels," said, "A full season of local big budget musicals would really fill a void. But if The Smith Center is just a business or a money making enterprise, it will slowly lose speed." That the Philharmonic's own annual fundraising event, the "Diamonds are Forever" Gala, is honoring the chair of The Smith Center's board, Donald Snyder, and his wife, Dee, shows that while The Smith Center may siphon off some support for local arts organizations, the excitement of The Smith Center is also generating new interest and funding support for those same organizations.

The Smith Center's president and CEO, Myron Martin (formerly with the Liberace



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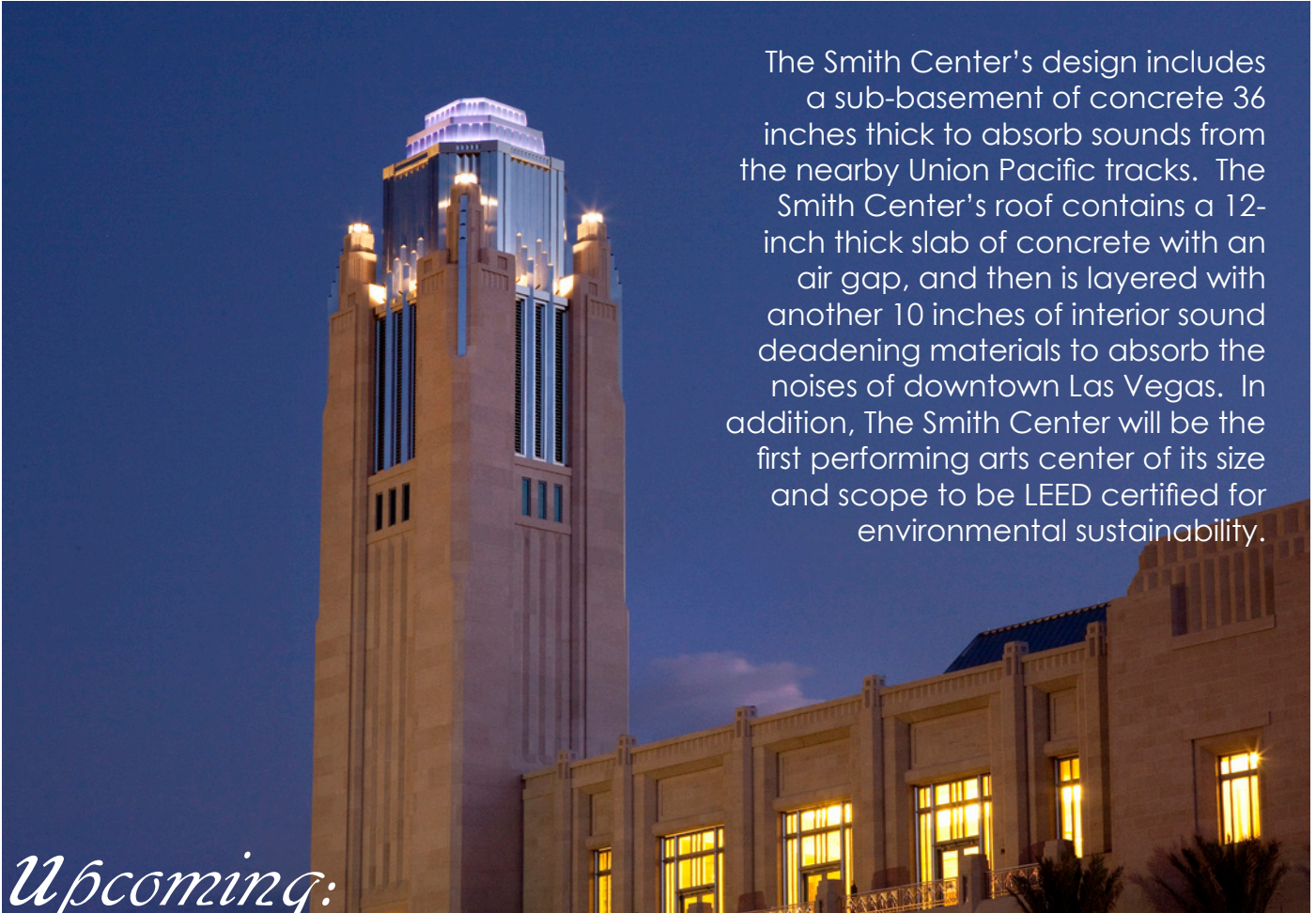
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www.JustFaceItLV.com

Museum) credits his passion for the performing arts to a fourth grade field trip. Martin's own daughter, Molly, will be in the fourth grade when The Smith Center opens in March. Martin says educational programming is the driving force behind why The Smith Center was created. Amber Stidham confirms that The Smith Center has joined with the Clark County School District to partner with the John F. Kennedy Center Partners in Education Program and the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts in Virginia to train teachers to incorporate music, theater and dance into their curriculums. The Boman Pavilion at The Smith Center will be home to The Elaine Wynn Studio for Arts Education, thanks to a \$5 million gift from Wynn. The Las Vegas

Philharmonic's Patricia Pieper Fink sees the educational role of the arts as essential to developing future audiences since, states Fink, "Our average audience member's age is 55." Fink said that the Philharmonic is committed to youth concerts in the schools in order to expand and diversify their audience base. Likewise, Gloria Allen with Opera Las Vegas is passionate about bringing opera into the schools with Opera Las Vegas' "Watch Out, or the Music Will Get You!" children's opera presentation. The Philharmonic's Fink said, "We have to keep the classics alive through strong consistent educational programs." The Smith Center's Johnson adds, "Our goal is to continue to expand our wonderful education programs."

Johnson summarizes, "Our ability to raise the funds needed for a project of this magnitude in the midst of incredible economic challenges clearly shows our community's support for The Smith Center." This summer The Smith Center launched its Annual Fund Campaign for programming, arts education and community outreach. In the fall they'll be beginning the Capstone campaign to raise funds to secure The Smith Center's financial future. Said The Smith Center's Charles Atwood, "The wonderful thing about people in Las Vegas is that we have this attitude that we can do anything." Gifts of all sizes are welcome and make this fundraising campaign a community-wide effort. To donate go to www.TheSmithCenter.com ■



The Smith Center's design includes a sub-basement of concrete 36 inches thick to absorb sounds from the nearby Union Pacific tracks. The Smith Center's roof contains a 12-inch thick slab of concrete with an air gap, and then is layered with another 10 inches of interior sound deadening materials to absorb the noises of downtown Las Vegas. In addition, The Smith Center will be the first performing arts center of its size and scope to be LEED certified for environmental sustainability.

Upcoming:

Upcoming local performing arts community events include Top Hat Tenor Trio, a cocktail fundraiser for the spring Opera Las Vegas production of "Don Giovanni, Trio is being presented at the home of Phil Varcchio in Anthem on Friday, November 4. Tickets are \$40-45. For more information call Alvida Lane at 702-459-6353.

The Las Vegas Contemporary Dance Theatre launches its fifth season with their Fall Concert Series 2011 at the West Las Vegas Library on November 4, 5 and 6, featuring "Vespers" by the legendary choreographic master Ulysses Dove. The Fall Concert Series

will also see the return of "Brethren," along with Las Vegas favorite, "Mood Indigo." Tickets are available at www.lvcontemporarydancetheater.org.

The second in the Las Vegas Philharmonic's Masterworks series is being presented on Saturday, November 19 at Ham Hall at UNLV and will feature gay composer Aaron Copeland's "Appalachian Spring." The Philharmonic's annual "Holiday Celebration," featuring the Las Vegas Master Singers, is available in matinee and evening performances on Saturday, December 17. Tickets are available at The Smith Center box office at 702-982-7805.

Christmas in Vegas is not Christmas without the Nevada Ballet Theatre's Nutcracker Ballet at the Théâtre de Paris at Paris Las Vegas, December 17-24. For tickets go to www.nevadaballet.com or call the Paris Box Office at 702- 946-4567. Season subscribers get priority seating.

The Las Vegas Philharmonic's Diamonds Are Forever Gala is planned for Saturday, January 14, 2012 at Four Seasons Hotel Las Vegas, honoring Dee and Donald Snyder. Gala tickets are available at \$500 a pop at the Philharmonic office, call 702-258-5438, ext. 221.

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FRANK MARINO

MILLIONAIRE MATCHMAKER

by William Bessette

He is Frank Marino, known by all as one of the longest running acts on the Las Vegas Strip, first in La Cage for over 25 years and now continuing in Divas Las Vegas! That is his public persona, of course; anyone familiar with Frank Marino - the man behind the make-up - knows he has been a committed family man in a long term relationship with his partner Alex for just a couple years shy of

"After filming the show, I decided the grass only looked greener on the other side,"

two decades, practically an eternity in gay marital terms. So why then did Marino, once a pillar of monogamous success in a world where there is so little, appear on Millionaire Matchmaker, the popular matchmaking show on

Bravo, for singles, hosted by Patti Stanger?

"After opening the Divas Las Vegas show, it was all work, and we actually separated for about an eight month period," says Marino. "During this time, I didn't feel like I had enough free time to go to work, a nightclub or whatever, and meet people, plus in Vegas I'm so well known, I wanted to meet someone for the right reasons. So a friend of mine knew Patti and decided that it would be a good idea for me to go on Bravo, to meet her, and find a match."

The show wasn't without its share of drama, however, undoubtedly fodder for Marino's stand-up act. Stanger herself took some heat from the media for portraying a common gay stereotype, though Marino backs her up; indeed, on an issue many in the community are in denial about. "She always believes in monogamy before sex," he says. "She says that's why she has a hard time with her gay clients because they want to have sex before they meet the person, and it was a stereotype, yes, but I don't

think she was out of the park in saying that. The majority of gay people are like that. Men are men, gay men are gay men, and I personally didn't take offense to it. That being said, I didn't want to have sex with any of my dates from the show on them the first night, so it worked out!"

Not surprisingly, the show ends up edited in such a way as to fuel the idea of a feud between the two, though Marino is quick to dispel that notion. "It was clever editing," he explains. "She is a strong woman who knows her business. We got along just fine." So well, in fact, that Marino is added a special Patti Stanger impersonation, which could end up a permanent character if it proves popular.

Fortunately, the fun ends in positive fashion, as Marino and his partner Alex Schechter are now back together and on the mend. "After filming the show, I decided the grass only looked greener on the other side," says Marino, happily. "Me and my partner are getting back together now and trying to make it work after eighteen years." Catch Frank Marino's Millionaire Matchmaker episode on the Bravo network, airing November 8th, at 7:00pm PST.



Patti Stanger left and Frank Marino's impersonation



UNLV Students United for Reproductive Justice QVegas & AFAN
Invite you to join us for the

AIDS Memorial Ceremony and Candlelight Vigil

December 1st, 2011 7PM



Las Vegas, NV – Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN) is partnering with UNLV's Students United for Reproductive Justice (SURJ) on World AIDS Day to raise awareness to those affected by HIV/AIDS in southern Nevada. On Dec. 1 at 7 p.m., supporters are invited to the AIDS Memorial Garden on the UNLV campus for a candlelight vigil delivered by growth advisor, Angie Harvey.

This moving tribute will pay respect to those who have been lost to HIV disease as well as unite the community with hope that together they can tackle an epidemic troubling the nation. AFAN understands that by keeping the disease in the forefront during AIDS awareness events such as World AIDS Day, the global community is encouraged to continue their work in combating HIV.

Tweet it: [Save the date for World AIDS Day on Dec. 1 & commemorate w/ @AFANLV at the AIDS Memorial Garden. Candlelight vigil begins at 7pm.](#)



VEGAS HAS GOT A CRUSH ON CRUSH

Photography by Marc Garcia
On location at Artisan Boutique Hotel
Written by Jill Roth

Las Vegas has become synonymous with glitz, glamour-- and clouds of cigarette smoke. Smoking is as conventional in this town as self-flushing toilets, and over the years cigarette smoking has become a global concern that is found everywhere and affects everyone- and in Vegas especially, there's a whole lot of smoking going on.

CRUSH is a local organization on a mission to educate the local LGBT community on the dangers of smoking and offer education and support programs to those who want to quit. They are true champions of health who are changing the world, one ex-smoker at a time.

"We all know people who have been affected by smoking or second hand smoke," says CRUSH program director, Malcolm Ahlo. "If you look at the facts, our LGBT community smokes at higher rates than that of any other population- it kills more people than AIDS, alcohol, car accidents, illegal drugs, murders and suicides combined and this includes Hookah. Hookah is not a safe alternative to smoking cigarettes. In fact recent studies show that it has the same or even worse effects than cigarettes."

So how do you change a community? Aim for the heart. It doesn't take a degree from Harvard to know that smoking is - well, bad. It's not only bad for you, but it robs you of your life and the lives of those you may know or even love. "I started CRUSH because I saw first-hand the effects tobacco use had on my friends and family members. I recently

lost my grandfather who passed away because of smoking. His struggle rejuvenated my passion to continue this fight," says Ahlo.

CRUSH aims to impart education and support information to those looking to live a smoke-free lifestyle, and according to Maria Azzarelli, Southern Nevada Health District's Tobacco Control Program Coordinator, the health benefits of quitting are evident mere moments after you take your last drag.

"Once you quit smoking your body starts to repair itself. Just 8 hours after you quit, your carbon monoxide level will drop to normal; after 24 hours your chance of a heart attack decreases; 2 weeks after your circulation and lung function will improve and after 1 month you will start to see your coughing, shortness of breath and fatigue decrease. It's never too late to quit smoking but we always encourage you to do it sooner rather than later."

No more hacking and coughing and fatigue, OH MY!

If the health benefits alone are not compelling enough, then the support that the CRUSH organization offers may be just the helping hand that even the most hopeless addict needs to overcome such a strong addiction.

"If you are a smoker and want to start living a fresh and smoke-free life there are many options for you," says Azzarelli.

"We understand that smoking is very addictive but that is why we are here to help. Anyone interested in quitting should call the Nevada





CRUSH is holding their biggest event of the year, the annual "CRUSH Stocking Stuffer". Organization Brand Manager Nicole Villa says it's an event you don't want to miss!

Mighty

Playful

Fresh

Tobacco Users' Helpline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW or the American Lung Association of Nevada's Freedom from Smoking Program (702-431-6348); the services are free and confidential." This innovative organization is fighting to increase the number of smoke-free environments within the city and have enlisted some heavy hitters along the way that are helping to change the community for the better.

"CRUSH has been fortunate work with such great groups and organizations as AFAN, SNAPI, Golden Rainbow, Sin City Sisters, The Center's Mpowerment group, etc, just to name a few. We are very proud of the partnerships we have been able to form over the years and look forward to working with new partners in the future," says Ahlo.

"All we can do is continue educating

CRUSH'S ANNUAL STOCKING STUFFER EVENT

the state legislature as well as local leaders to create more laws that protect the non-smoking majority within the community ...We hope that our LGBT local leaders and decision makers look at what they could do to help protect the health and well-being of our community."

Speaking of events, CRUSH is holding their biggest event of the year, the annual "CRUSH Stocking Stuffer". Organization Brand Manager Nicole Villa says it's an event you don't want to miss.

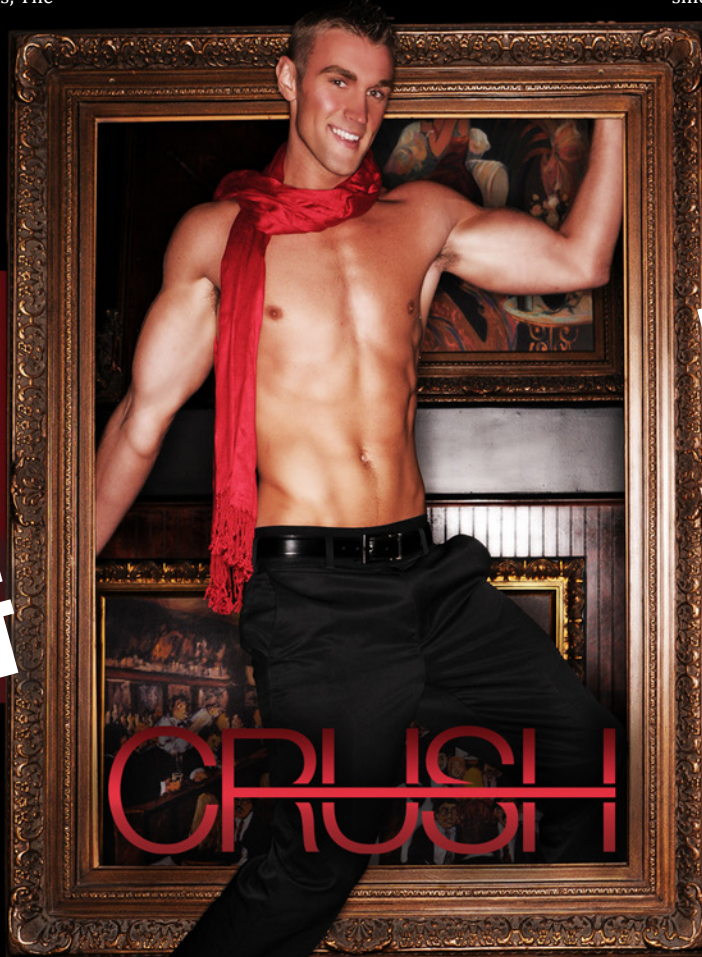
"This year's "Stocking Stuffer" event will be on Friday, December 16th at 8pm at the Artisan Hotel Boutique. The event will be filled with activities including pictures with a sexy Santa, prizes, and most exciting...our giveaways."

But wait.... There's more. According to Villa, the annual event is more than just a sexy, smoke free time; it can change lives.

"In addition to being a fun event, we use it as an opportunity to help motivate and encourage those who are current smokers to

quit in the New Year. Each guest who comes to the CRUSH Stocking Stuffer will receive a free certificate for personalized help to quit smoking, which could include free nicotine replacement therapies such as patches, gum, lozenges, inhalers, nasal sprays or other FDA approved medications such as Zyban or Chantix."

Since CRUSH started their crusade for a healthier Vegas, the organization has seen great successes which only seem to grow with each passing year.



"CRUSH's biggest accomplishment to date would be the amount of people who have chosen to live a smoke-free lifestyle. When CRUSH first started 63% of our community smoked," says Ahlo. "Today the number has decreased to 47%. We believe that our ongoing efforts are paying off and that we are saving lives in our community. Tobacco is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States and it's just a matter of time before Nevada joins the many other states and countries who are smoke-free."

Villa also wants to thank the community for their support along the way, emphasizing how together, we can all make a difference...and some of those ex-smokers say CRUSH is how they made it through each and every day. "We are so very proud of how the community

has embraced our cause. To think that thousands of people (both smokers and non-smokers) would visit our website each month and sign-up to receive CRUSH updates, is amazing...and you can see both the Local Leaders and CRUSH Cuties on our website www.socrush.com. People want smoke-free environments. When people come to our "Fresh and Smoke-free" events they are thankful and enjoy their experience."

Ex-Smoker Blain Anderson and CRUSH supporter Andrew Kiczek are living the smoke-free life and proud of it!

"Yes. I used to be a smoker. However, seeing what CRUSH does and stands for in the community encouraged me to quit. Fortunately enough, I was able to kick the habit. I've never felt better," says Anderson.

FRIDAY
DEC 16
8PM
ARTISAN
HOTEL

Kiczek agrees. "As a non-smoker I think CRUSH is amazing. It's great to be able to go to events where I can breathe and come home not smelling like smoke. I've never liked the idea of smoking so I support CRUSH 100 percent."

Quitting smoking is more than an opportunity to live a healthier, fuller life, and the people at CRUSH want the community to know that by quitting smoking you are paving the way for the smoke-free movement, not only here but around the world.

"Tobacco is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States and it's just a matter of time before Nevada joins the many other states and countries which are smoke-free," says Ahlo. "Smoking is so yesterday. It's almost 2012 and by now we should all know that smoking and secondhand smoke are not good for you. We all know that living a smoke-free lifestyle is healthier. What we would like to emphasize to the public more is that this bad habit doesn't just affect you, it affects all of us." ■



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FALLEN *Angels*

BY RICHARD DAVIS

What is it like to be nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, one of the highest honors in American journalism and the arts? I asked local playwright and author, Edward D Padilla who has been nominated for a Pulitzer for his play, "Fallen Guardian Angels". This particular production is set to open at 7:30 p.m. on World AIDS Day, Thursday, December 1st, at the West Charleston Library, 6301 West Charleston Boulevard on the CSN campus as a benefit production for Golden Rainbow.

Padilla says he was sitting at his desk drinking coffee last August when he received a call that he was a nominee for the prize. "I remember sitting back in a numb haze and crying for about ten minutes," he says. Padilla continues, "I typed out my name with 'Pulitzer Prize Nominee' and stared at it for a while. I've been writing since I can remember, and this was a sign that someone, somewhere, finally noticed all the hard work I put into making words come to life." Padilla says the prize comes with a cash grant of \$10,000 and all nominees receive an invitation to the Pulitzer awards luncheon in April of next year at Columbia University in New York.

Greg Nielson, president of the Board of Directors of Golden Rainbow, said, "Golden Rainbow is honored to have been chosen by Mr. Padilla as the beneficiary of this year's Las Vegas production of his Pulitzer-nominated play about AIDS/HIV." Nielson stated, "Fallen Guardian Angels' is an emotional ride back to the early years of the disease when fear and ignorance dominated any discussion about AIDS. Golden Rainbow was founded during those same years and has been a leading advocate in southern Nevada for AIDS education and assistance ever since." Nielson continued, "This play reminds us all why organizations such as Golden Rainbow exist and how much more we still need to do."

The Las Vegas production will run December 1st, 2nd and 3rd at 7:30 p.m. The West Charleston Library will also have two panels from the AIDS Quilt on display during the production as part of the national "Let's Make History" effort of the Names Project. In addition, the West Charleston Library will also have independent film screenings as part of the

30th anniversary of World AIDS Day. The screenings are scheduled for two Sundays, December 4th and 11th at 2:00 p.m.

"There are over 2,100 benefit productions scheduled for World AIDS Day 2011," Padilla says, "and 'Fallen Guardian Angels' will be presented on every continent and in every time zone for the entire weekend, beginning at 7:30 p.m. GMT, Thursday, December 1st, and running continuously until 8:00 p.m. GMT, Sunday, December 4th." All proceeds from the worldwide productions go to local AIDS organizations.

Padilla says, "I received notification that a small underground group in North Korea is planning an unauthorized production. I cannot confirm or deny this. I can say that, if this is true, this will be the first time an American playwright's words have been heard in that corner of the world since the 1960s. I am extremely honored to have these words travel the world."

"Fallen Guardian Angels" is considered the "Official Script of World AIDS Day" by World AIDS Day organizers, according to Padilla. He said the script is in consideration for inclusion in the World AIDS Archives for its dramatic documentation of the beginning of the AIDS pandemic. The play's seven iconic characters reflect the different experiences and perceptions of AIDS at the beginning of the crisis, and are represented in the play by the different colors of the rainbow. They are "fallen" because each has failed to protect someone they loved from the crisis. Padilla was awarded an "Honorary Ambassadorship" from Australia for "Fallen Guardian Angels." This magazine recognized Padilla as one of its "32 People with Pride" in May 2010 and *Out* magazine noted Padilla as one of the "25 Most Influential Gay Men in America" in February of this year.

Photo: The "Living Positive by Design" Jack Mackenroth





QVEGAS.com

EVERYTHING **GAY** LAS VEGAS

CHRIS MILLER MAKES HISTORY AS HEAD OF NEVADA'S LARGEST POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

By Andrew Davey - Stonewall Democrats of Nevada Political Director

How did a grassroots activist land in such a position of power? How did “the gay next door” take charge of the Democratic Party in the most populous county in Nevada? How did Chris Miller just become Clark County Democratic Party Chair?

Well, it took a whole lot of hard work. Chris spent countless hours on the phone, at local club meetings, and all around town reaching out to other local Democratic activists and talking with them about what they want to see out of the Democratic Party.

And of course, it also helped that these very activists were quite familiar with what Chris has done as Nevada Stonewall Democratic Caucus President, and as Stonewall Democratic Club Treasurer. They had seen for themselves Chris Miller showing up to community events and lending a helping hand. And they have seen for themselves Stonewall's unrelenting activism for LGBTQ equality, as well as Stonewall's more recent forays into progressive action and coalition building.

HOW DID “THE GAY NEXT DOOR” TAKE CHARGE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN THE MOST POPULOUS COUNTY IN NEVADA?



Chris Miller at the 2009 National Equality March

Chris Miller's election as Clark County Democratic Party Chair, along with Stonewall's overall success in becoming a more powerful force in Nevada politics, is a testament to what happens when our LGBTQ community gets out and builds partnerships with the greater community. We have to remember that we can not win on our own. We need allies, and once we find allies and build partnerships, amazing things happen: Domestic partnerships pass, transgender inclusive workplace non-discrimination laws pass, and LGBTQ Nevadans rise to prominent positions of power.

When Chris Miller and the rest of the Stonewall board began working together with the likes of the DREAMers (young people in support of the DREAM Act and comprehensive immigration reform), the Culinary Union, and ProgressNow Nevada, some were asking why. Now that Senator Harry Reid is reelected, AB 211 is the law of the land, and Chris Miller is in charge of the largest county political party in the state, I hope they understand why. ■

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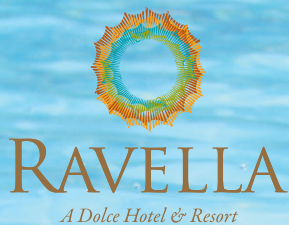
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VISITING *Los Angeles*

by Charles Béraud

So we've got three days, a bit of loose change, and a hankering for a getaway – sounds ideal for a long weekend in LA. The City Of Angels: mythical destination if there ever was one – a city where everyone has a shot at becoming someone and will take your latte' order in the meantime. And three days in LA gives you just enough time to capture the essence of the city without scratching the veneer of the city and the myth Hollywood built.

ICONS IN L.A.

After an hour flight and picking up the rental, we start with a driving tour of Los Angeles, a great way to get the iconic photo-op locations out of the way: Walt Disney Concert Hall and downtown, Griffith Observatory, Hollywood Boulevard, Mulholland Drive, down Laurel Canyon to Sunset from the Strip all the way to the PCH (with a quick peek into Bel-Air), and ends in Santa Monica/Venice for a lazy afternoon of shopping, sightseeing or simply enjoying the water and the beach.

SANTA MONICA

There are many late lunch options in Santa Monica, including the many restaurants along 3rd Street Promenade, but we go to The Lobster (1602 Ocean Avenue) with a menu that includes sandwiches, soups, salads and a great seafood selection, an amazing view over the pier and the friendliest proprietors and staff you'll ever meet. Santa Monica is an artsy and vibrant area, so I always check out the CVB's online events calendar (www.santamonica.com)

BEVERLY HILLS

In early evening, we head to Beverly Hills – and most notably, Rodeo Drive. The iconic street doesn't disappoint – it's the miracle mile for the label whore, and while there's nothing within my price range, it's always nice to do some window shopping. I prefer this time of day as the sidewalks are much less crowded. Just in time for dinner – a plus! My low/high options: Oliver Café Lounge (9601 Wilshire Boulevard) which is true to its website description as a sexy, sophisticated and stylish dining destination. We opt for Villa Blanca (9601 Brighton Way) – which I was first introduced to way before Lisa Vanderpump became a "Real Housewife of Beverly Hills". While the all-white decor and oversized flower arrangements feel more dated than elegant – the food is good and more accessibly priced than, say, the nearby Bouchon (235 N. Canon Drive), of the Thomas Keller Restaurant Group where you might feel a little silly shelling out \$17.50 for a toasted ham and cheese with fries.



WEST HOLLYWOOD

Vanderpump's other restaurant SUR (606 N. Robertson Blvd) in West Hollywood is also an option, which puts us much closer to our after-dinner activities. Don't let the fact that the staff is entirely too good-looking and incredibly aware of how beautiful they are (check out the staff "photos" on the restaurant's over-the-top site) deter from a delectable dining experience. Start with their shrimp and crab cakes.

Well fed and happy, we head out to sample the very best boystown has to offer, from the Mother Lode (8944 Santa Monica) to The Abbey (692 North Robertson) and everything in between.

RUNYON CANYON PARK

Day 2 starts with a stop at Eat Well (8252 Santa Monica Blvd), my go-to diner for a hearty and delicious breakfast...before heading out to Runyon Canyon Park, located right there just two blocks from Hollywood Blvd, just west of the 101. A hike along the various trails (anywhere between 3 minutes to 2 hours) would make you forget that you're anywhere close to Tinseltown were it not for the many celebs frequently sighted there. After a pit stop at the hotel to freshen up, it's off to lunch at Le Petit Four (8654 W Sunset Blvd) a French restaurant at the Sunset Plaza that serves a lobster bisque that's up there with the very best I've ever had. It's an easy walk from our hotel - The Standard Hollywood (8300 Sunset) - that would take less than 15 minutes each way were it not for the shopping on the way there and back.

L.A. ART

For the afternoon we eschew Disney or Universal parks and set out to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), a nine building campus located at Wilshire and Fairfax. It's impossible to see everything so let's not even try. The LACMA has impressive Modern and Contemporary Art Collections that are bound to spark dialogue.

THE HOLLYWOOD BOWL

Another must in the LA experience for me is definitely The Hollywood Bowl. In season, there is always something amazing to see, whether it be a restaging of a musical, the LA Phil, or – as was the case this past season, Sarah McLachlan and the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, Michael Feinstein and the Singing Stars of TV (including Wayne Brady and Florence Henderson), and Dolly Parton. We plan ahead, and place our order 24 hours in advance with Joan's On Third (www.joansonthird.com) for a to-go picnic, complete with succulent entrées, salads, dessert and wine – and all the necessary accoutrements to cop a squat at the Bowl for dinner and a show. We park at Hollywood and Highland and walk. It's easier in, much easier out, and more cost-effective.

During the Bowl's off-season, we typically go directly from the LACMA to Koreatown and my favorite sushi place Fat Fish (3300 W 6th St) – delicious, unassuming, fresh and affordable. Who can ask for anything more?

We check out the flip side of WeHo's version of Boystown, "Silverlake" with its "dive bars" like MJ's (2810 Hyperion) and Faultline (4216 Melrose) that are high on fun, and low on attitude.

SURFING

Growing up with images of golden boys and their boards as SoCal mascots, a trip to LA for the uninitiated wouldn't be complete without an early Sunday morning surf lesson/session. Whether you opt for Malibu, Santa Monica or trek a little further to "Surfboard Capital" Huntington Beach, you will find in all these locations groups like Surf Lessons with Katie, Malibu Longboards Surf School or Bunzai Surf School who will suit you up, hand you a board, and teach you how to negotiate the surf and catch your wave. Of course this scenario implies appropriate weather and the alternative – lazing in bed for a few hours, reading (or something) – is quite appealing as well. After checking out of our hotel, we make our way back to The Abbey for a convivial brunch where the food is as delish as the colorful view: the perfect end to a terrific long weekend in LA.

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Who you calling a HATER?

by Abby Dee

I've always had a sort-of wincing reaction to the word "hate" in LGBT rights messaging. Like those bumper stickers that say, "Hate is not a family value." Or the newest iteration, "No H8," admittedly a clever spin on the ridiculous Prop 8. It's not that I don't think people hate us – I know all too well that lots do. The problem is that I've heard the word "hate" used to describe everything from gathering signatures against gay marriage to committing torture and rape. Surely there's some nuance missing here. I understand the argument that all homophobia, from the most violent to the mildly annoying, is rooted in fear and ignorance. I get that, but I'm not so convinced that every act of homophobia must come from a hateful place. Quite simply, hate isn't the only manifestation of fear and ignorance. If you ask a reformed homophobe what was going on before they saw the light, you'll hear things like, "I didn't understand," or, "I thought the Bible said so," or, "I was afraid." But you'll rarely hear, "I just hated those guys – couldn't stand 'em." I'll even go out on a limb and say that those good people, those reformed allies-come-lately, were also good people back when they thought there was a gay agenda. They were ignorant, perhaps afraid, but probably not hateful. (Come to think of it, I was a pretty idiotic homophobe before I came out.)

I think it's hard to hold these competing ideas in our consciousness without feeling a bit queasy. How can we wrap our head around the idea that we are in a life-and-death battle for human rights, and yet our opponents might actually be fair-minded, decent folk? It's much easier to draw a clear line in the sand and then declare everyone over there a hate-filled bigot. This is human nature, of course, but it's also bad P.R. For one reason, telling people who are uninformed or locked into intolerant thinking that they are in fact hateful isn't going to bring about introspection. They will, at the very least, simply disagree; perhaps rightly. For another, it makes us look as reactive and unsubtle as the people campaigning against us. I'm reminded of all the times I've heard people compare our presidents to Hitler. (I've seen countless images of both Bush II and Obama with a caterpillar moustache scribbled on.) Sure, always call out injustice, but be accurate about it. We are not in fact living under a fascist



Whether examining our community's latest legal battles or the delicate etiquette of coming out to evangelicals at Christmastime, she always finds humor and compassion in even the most challenging situations.

genocidal regime, and to claim otherwise is to minimize the experience of those who are (Kim Jong Il, anybody?).

Similarly, let's be clear about what's really happening in our community that is incontrovertibly driven by hatred: gay bashing,

for example; Fred Phelps and his many clones; bullying; hatred formed of fear, ignorance and the unique insecurity of adolescence;

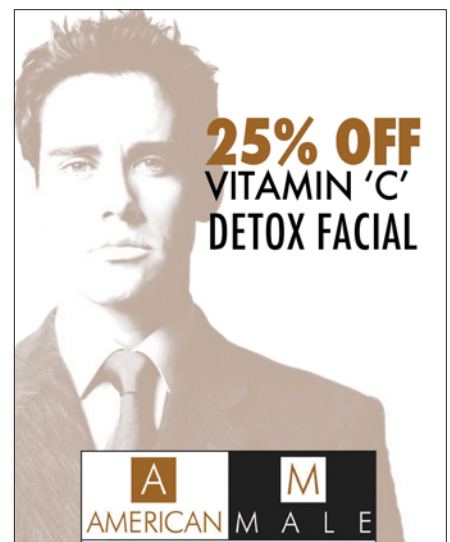
and hate speech, purpose-built to cause us real harm. There's plenty more.

And let's be clear about what is not driven by hatred, but by all the other human frailties that allow injustice to persist. I'm not suggesting that one kind of intolerance is less destructive than another. As Dr. King said, "Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance." However, once we've stamped the word "hate" on every offense against us, then we've reinforced the whole us-versus-them ideology that's been used against us for eons. If we are trying to change minds, we can't be so sloppy about our message even if it feels satisfying at the time. We've only put another barrier between us and the people who might one day be allies.



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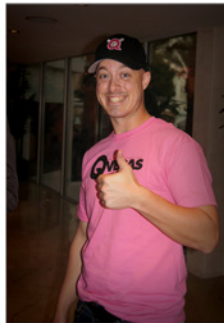
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Abby is a civil rights attorney-turned-author who has been in the LGBT rights trenches for 25+ years. She can be reached through her website: queerquestionsstraighttalk.com.



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OUT AND ABOUT IN GAY VEGAS



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TEAM: Piranha POSITION: Pitcher/Coach

*- Plays for fun and enjoys being
part of a successful team*



TOM "BABY T" LENG

TEAM: LV Rat Pack POSITION: Utility Player/Coach

*- Plays because he loves catching
& playing with balls, & loves sports*



JOSHUA MONTGOMERY

TEAM: The Center POSITION: Catcher

*- Plays because it challenges him
& he gets to meet great people*



CHRISTOPHER WEST

TEAM: Charlie's POSITION: 3rd Base/Left Center

*- Plays because he loves all sports
and likes being part of a team*



CHARLES SLOAN

TEAM: Buffalo POSITION: 1st Base

*- Plays because it's a great way to
be a part of the LGBT community*



HOPE NOULF

TEAM: Betty's Brats POSITION: 1st Base

*- Plays because she loves sports,
and feels at home on the field*

NIGHTLIFE

LGBT NIGHTCLUBS, BARS AND LOUNGES

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8½ AND PIRANHA 4633 Paradise Rd. 702-791-0100	El Seseo Latin Night DJs Vago & Auner Las Sirenas 12a	\$3 Locals Liquor Bust 11pm - 3am	DJ Vago & DJ Exile - \$15 Domestic and 420 Beer Buckets	Glamorous with Syren Vaughn	DJ Chris Adams & DJ Vago - \$7 Liquor Bust with Text	Visit piranhavegas.com for details	Stimulate Saturdays
BACKDOOR 1415 E. Charleston Ave. 702-385-2018	2-4-1 Drinks 10am-12pm Retro Night	2-4-1 Drinks 10am - 12pm	2-4-1 Drinks 10am - 12pm	2-4-1 Drinks 10am-12pm Karaoke 12pm \$3 Well and Domestic	2-4-1 Drinks 10am-12pm Ladies Night	2-4-1 Drinks 10am-12pm Ladies Night	2-4-1 Drinks 10am-12pm Latin Night
BADLANDS SALOON 953 E. Sahara Ave. 702-792-9262	\$5 Beer Bust 9pm - Midnight	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Drinks 4pm - 7pm	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Drinks 4pm - 7pm	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Drinks 4pm - 7pm	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Drinks 4pm - 7pm	2-4-1 4pm-7pm \$5 Liquor Bust 9pm - 12pm	\$6 Beer Bust 9pm - Midnight
CHARLIE'S LAS VEGAS 5012 S. Arville St. 702-876-1844	\$1.75 Well&Dom. 2a-10a \$5 Beer Bust 4pm-7pm \$2 Long Islands 7p-12a	Dance Lessons 7p-9p \$1.75 Well 2am-10am 2-4-1 Well 10am-6pm	Drag Queen bingo 9ish \$1.75 Well 2am-10am 2-4-1 Well 10am-6pm	Underwear Night \$1.75 Well 2am-10am 2-4-1 Well 10am-6pm Free Pool 9pm	1/2 Price 9p-12a Dance Lessons 7p-9p \$1.75 Well 2am-10am 2-4-1 Well 10am-6pm	Dance Lessons 7p-9p \$1.75 Well & Domestic 2am-10am & 7pm-9pm \$10 Liquor Bust 9p-12a	\$1.75 Well & Domestic 2am-10am & 7pm-9pm \$5 Beer Bust 9pm - 12am
CREWS'N 1000 E. Sahara, Ste. 105 702-731-0951	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Well & Draft 2p-7p \$15 Brunch Buffet 4p	Sing along with pianist Piermarini 4p-7p Happy Hour 2p-7p	Happy Hour 2-7p Karaoke 8-11p Every other Tuesday	Happy Hour 2-7p 2 for 1 Well and Draft	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Well & Draft 2pm - 7pm Roll The Dice Price 7p- 9p	Happy Hour 2pm-7pm Kitty Litter Show 11pm & 1am	Happy Hour 2-4-1 Well & Draft 2pm - 7pm Richard Villa 10pm
ENTOURAGE VEGAS 953 E. Sahara Ave. 702-650-9191	Open 24 Hours Movie Star night	Open 24 Hours Boys Night 18-25 Free Entry	Open 24 Hours Dark Night All lights out	Open 24 Hours Wise Wednesdays	Mitch Vaughn Presents THRUST Thursdays Adult film stars 8p-10p	Open 24 hours	Open 24 Hours Packed House Busiest night
ESCAPE LOUNGE 4213 W. Sahara Ave. 702-364-1167	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Liquor Bust \$10 11p-1a Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8a-8p	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Liquor Bust \$10 10p-12a Happy Hour \$2 Well & Dom. Draft 8am - 8pm
FLEX 4371 W. Charleston Ave. 702-685-FLEX	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Liquor Bust \$10 11p-1a Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8a-8p	Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8am - 8pm	Liquor Bust \$10 11p-1a Happy Hour \$2 Well & Domestic Draft 8a-8pm
FREEZONE 610 E. Naples Dr. 702-974-2300	Karaoke 10pm Free Beer Bust 8p-1a *w/ a shot purchase	Karaoke 10pm Free Beer Bust 8p-1a *w/ a shot purchase	Ladies Night LickHerBust \$7 Beer Bust \$5 8p-1a	Risque Bingo 8pm iNTOXXICATED w/ Divia Toxxx Drag Revue 11pm	BUSTED \$7 Liquor Bust & \$5 Beer Bust 8pm-1am	Queens of Las Vegas Drag Revue 10pm DJ BC 11pm	Queens of Las Vegas Drag Revue 10pm DJ BC 11pm Beer Bust 4p-8p
FUN HOG RANCH 495 E. Twain 702-791-7001	\$5 Beer Bust 6pm - 9pm	Happy Hour 3pm - 7pm \$1.50 Long Islands 9pm - 2am \$3 Smirnoff 8pm - Midnight	Happy Hour 3pm - 7pm \$5 Beer Bust & \$10 Liquor Bust 9pm - 2am	Happy Hour 3pm - 7pm \$1.50 Margaritas 9pm - 2am \$1 Off Call Liquor	Happy Hour 3pm - 7pm \$5 Beer Bust & \$10 Liquor Bust 9pm - 2am	Happy Hour 3pm - 7pm	\$5 Beer Bust 12pm - 4pm
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GOODTIMES 1775 E. Tropicana Ave. 702-736-9494	Open 24 Hours	Drag Show starts 11pm	Comedy Show 8p-midnight	Karaoke With Will 9pm-1am	Carpe Noctem 10:30pm-4am No Cover	Vaquero Night With \$10 Liquor Bust 10pm	Noche Caliente "Hot Night" 10pm
KRAVE LAS VEGAS Harmon Ave. at LV Blvd. 702-836-0830	It's not that serious Sundays! DJ Kowax, Locals free & \$10 for tourists.	Kream Hip Hop Night! DJ Kowax, \$10 entry, All you can drink	Tyler Caiden's Playground \$3 wells & \$5 premiums drinks with text. DJ Mikey 18 and over	WTF? Wednesdays win up to \$1,000 DJ J. Diesel Free for locals, \$10 for tourists.	Drag & Drink with Chi Chi! Live drag performances, DJ Silence, drag queens drink FREE all night!	Fabulous Fridays! DJ Silence 18 and over	Krave Saturdays World-class DJs, over-the-top entertainment and Vegas' hottest go-go dancers.
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SNICK'S PLACE 3rd St. off Las Vegas Blvd. 702-835-9298	Open 24 Hours	Beer/Liquor Bust \$6, \$7, \$8, 7pm - 10pm \$6 Darts Happy Hour 2pm - 5pm & 2am to 4am	Happy Hour 2pm - 5pm & 2am to 4am	Happy Hour 2pm - 5pm & 2am to 4am	Happy Hour 2pm - 5pm & 2am to 4am	\$3 Smirnoff Drinks & \$3 Domestic Bottle Beer 12pm - 4pm / Happy Hour 2pm - 5pm & 2am to 4am	\$3 Smirnoff Drinks & \$3 Domestic Bottle Beer 12pm - 4pm
SPOTLIGHT LOUNGE 957 E. Sahara Ave. 702-696-0202	\$1.50 Bloody Marys 8am - 4pm \$5 Beer Bust 4pm - 7 pm	\$5 Beer Bust 12pm - 4pm 2-4-1 Drinks 6pm - 9pm	\$5 Beer Bust 12pm - 4pm 2-4-1 Drinks 8pm - 11pm	Hump Day \$1.50 Well Screws & Margaritas 8pm - 11pm \$1 Well, Domestic, Wine with Spotlight T-Shirt	\$5 Liquor Bust 10pm - 1am	\$5 Liquor Bust 1pm - 4pm \$5 Beer Bust 8pm - 11pm	\$5 Beer Bust 12 - 3pm Couples Night 6 - 9pm Jock Night Mid - 3am

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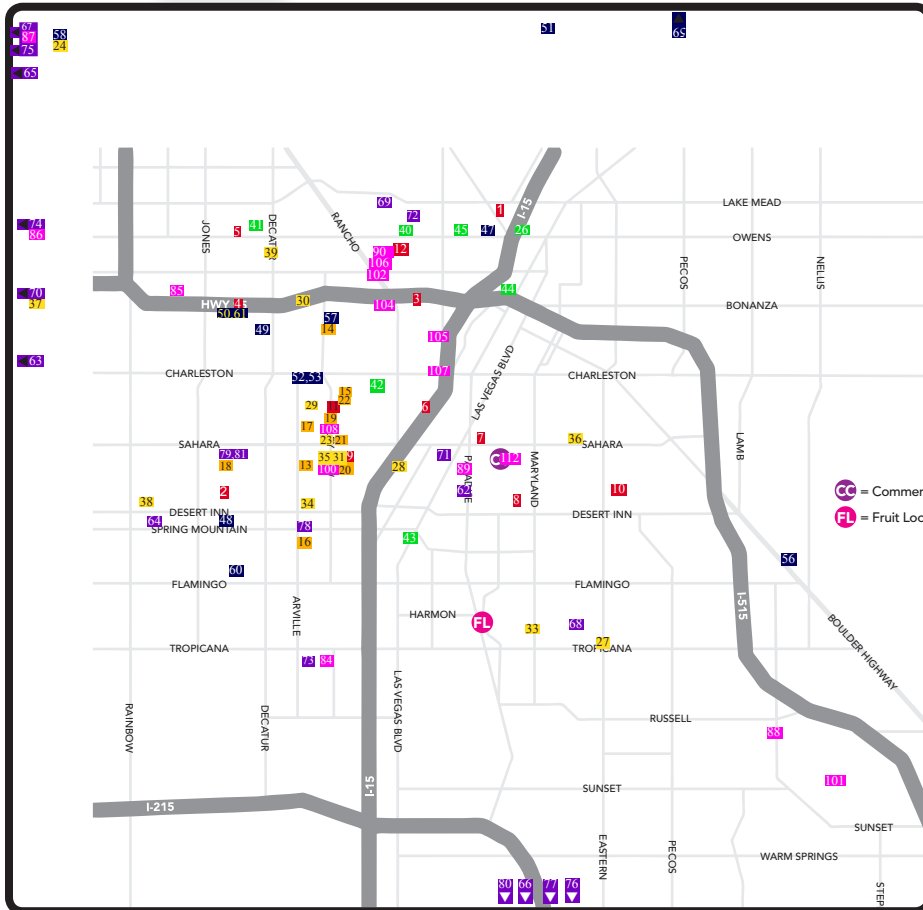
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Las Vegas Style:

by Derek "The Style Guy" Washington

TROY PATRUNO

10 Stylish things i can't live without

Born and bred in New York City, Troy Patrino arrived in Las Vegas at the same time as those Las Vegas style icons, Prada, Armani and Hermes when the Bellagio first taught us what luxury shopping was all about in 1998.

Troy is the manager of the chicest book boutique in Las Vegas, the flagship "Assouline" store at Crystals in City Center. "Assouline" is the luxury publisher of the industry's most glamorous fashion, art, and lifestyle titles. After being hooked on fashion during his first summer job working at the original Barney's New York, Troy has been firmly ensconced ever since in the items that do their part to help make life a little more luxurious and fun.

Here are the "Ten Stylish Things" that Troy Patrino simply can't live without:

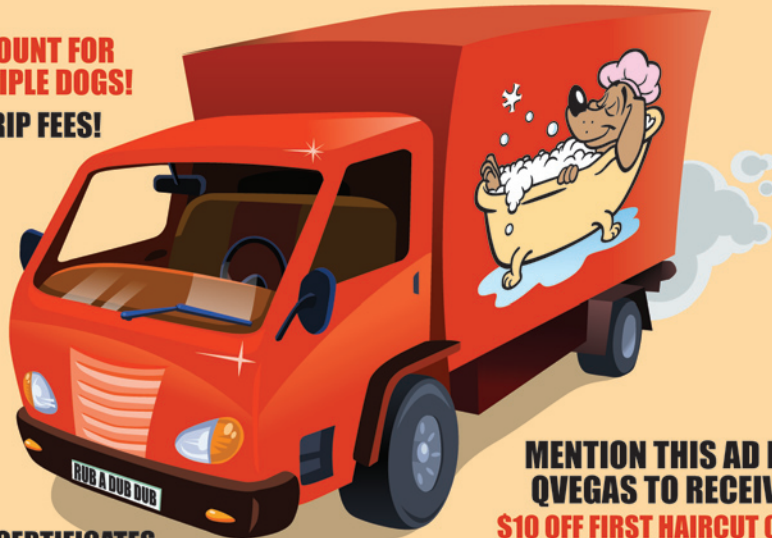
1. Tailored Jackets: Armani is a favorite, and i get more compliments on my 15-year old GA's than anything new from anyone else.
2. Good Denim: the Skinny from GAP is my current go-to basic. And while you have to take the time to find the right one, i believe Diesel makes the best-fitting mens jeans on the planet.
3. White Cotton Shirts: Every closet should have a handful of simple white cotton shirts, and 1 black cashmere turtleneck.
4. Hermes Eau D'Orange fragrance: I've worn it for 25 years, summer/fall/winter/spring.
5. Cole Haan loafers.
6. iPhone 4: I am not sure how I ever lived without it!
7. American Apparel T-Shirts: You can skip the gym for a week, and no one will notice.
8. Tom Ford eyeglasses.
9. Rolex Oyster Perpetual: It's a classic for a reason.
10. I have a Fox Fur Knit Scarf, and while i could certainly live without it, I am glad I don't have to!

photography by Carissa Ramirez www.Shadairmoon.com

You can also read more about Style & Living in Las Vegas at
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CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22 – JANUARY 19

Planetary aspects look wonderful for Capricorns all month long. It'll be like driving and seeing only green lights (how often does that happen?). Your powers of persuasion shall be at their peak. A used car salesperson should have such a "run". The only major possible hurdle could be if you blab about plans or confide in the wrong individual. Keep facts to a trusted inner circle and all will work out just fine.



AQUARIUS

JANUARY 20 – FEBRUARY 18

November could seem like a roller coaster ride of sorts. Most of it should prove to be delightful and extremely fulfilling. Full Moon from 11th-13th makes you feel "caffeinated" and perhaps a bit tempted to give advice where it's not appreciated. Count to ten before speaking. It'll save you time and maybe even some bucks. That new investment opportunity looks solid. Have it checked out just to be safe.



PISCES

FEBRUARY 19 – MARCH 19

Old proverb states "to the victor, goes the spoils". Translation? When someone wins, someone else is bound to be on the losing end. It's wise to embrace those competitors you've triumphed over and be a "good winner". That means not bragging too much or "rubbing it in". Today's enemies are often tomorrow's friends. Keep that in mind when seeking out advice pertaining to a business expansion.



ARIES

MARCH 20 – APRIL 19

People just love being in charge or in the "driver's seat". It gives them much more control. But, it looks like you'll be a "passenger" in a few vehicles. Just along for the ride. We know you just hate that, but forewarned is forearmed. This aspect shall force you to keep a much lower profile than usual (at least until the 22nd). However, listening and observing often mines rich rewards. Chief among them is financial.



TAURUS

APRIL 20 – MAY 20

Unlike Aries, you'll be in the driver's seat all month long. Making clear cut decisions and hopefully obeying the speed limit (sorry, but tickets don't lie, Taurus). You'll be on the road most of the month, so have that vehicle checked out (please include a tire rotation!). A debt owed you is paid off by "turkey day". Good news from a parent brings much relief. Avoid partying on the 25th if possible. Stay close to home.



GEMINI

MAY 21 – JUNE 21

Due to that somewhat restless nature, it's sometimes difficult for Gemini to balance business with pleasure. This also applies to your cash flow. Saving shouldn't be a dirty word, but to many of you it is. Sure, spending is so much fun, and true to your nature. But expenses need to be met and bills paid. Put those credit cards in the freezer 'til it's time to "holiday shop". It wouldn't hurt to clip a few coupons either, okay?



CANCER

JUNE 22 – JULY 22

To quote a Gaelic expression, "the wind will be at your back" for most of this month. That means there shall be very few delays or obstacles in your path. This applies both to personal issues as well as career aspects. The urge to be isolated or simply avoid large groups may prove to be powerful. We advise that you go with the flow. By month's end you'll once again be the life of the party. Make that many parties.



LEO

JULY 23 – AUGUST 22

Planetary vibes are highlighting large investments (especially real estate deals) all month long. An old adage says "buy cheap and sell high". It's simple but sometimes not easy (they're not the same thing) to pull off. This simply takes practice and having an expert on your team. Leos demand the highest degree of loyalty, but what they give in return is often priceless and ongoing. Thanksgiving weekend looks like sheer joy.



VIRGO

AUGUST 23 – SEPTEMBER 22

Plans for that early January vacation ought to be "set in stone" by the 15th. Lord knows you've put it off long enough. This time you'll be at the airport (NO EXCUSES!). Upper leg cramps that have plagued you ease up quite a bit after the 8th. Potential for a 2nd or even 3rd source of income manifest themselves out of nowhere. This shall provide you with much deserved "mad money". Update that home alarm system.



LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23 – OCTOBER 22

Balance is one of your sign's keywords and happily, there shall be plenty of it in your everyday life right through the end of 2011. Isn't that a sweet change from the last three months? Your poor nerves, Libra. Well fear not, as relief is on the way. Let someone else drive on the 18th. Extend an "olive branch" to a troubled sibling to show your character (but don't loan them any money). Spring for comfy sneakers.



SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23 – NOVEMBER 21

It'll be difficult to not look back and "second guess" key choices that were made. But this won't bring about any positive results. Onward and upward should be the main goal. Lunar aspects on the 12th could make you more vulnerable to criticisms. Wearing a thick skin will help. Leases and other important papers are best signed after the 21st. Mini getaway from 24th-27th proves rejuvenating.



SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22 – DECEMBER 21

It's been said that good fortune often favors the foolish. This also applies to innocent or trusting people (which Sag. is). Rose-colored glasses are lovely and intoxicating. But we shouldn't wear them all the time. Especially where matters of finance are concerned. Don't loan out money or invest it without background checks. Annual New Moon in your sign on the 26th should herald the start of a fabulous romance.

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THE LAST WORD

BY DAVID MIXNER

Reasoning, Not Rhetoric, Needed For Improving HIV/AIDS Treatment

Instead of coming together as Americans and finding common ground to solve our problems, the pendulum swings of the last two elections have only served to sharpen the differences between right and left. As someone who was a leader during the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights movement, and the endless struggle for marriage and societal equality, it's clear that important ideas and areas for common ground are increasingly falling through the cracks. It's time to change. And we -- the HIV/AIDS and gay rights communities -- must be the ones leading this effort. And there's no more morally urgent policy battle than the one currently being waged in Washington over Medicare.

If the wrong policies win, they will have a major and harmful impact on millions of America's most vulnerable citizens: people living with HIV/AIDS. By 2015, half of all US HIV patients will be aged 50 and older. But with Medicare spending skyrocketing out of control (2011 budget: \$468 billion), there is a consensus among Democrats and Republicans that something needs to be done to reduce costs while ensuring overall quality of care.

Simply repeating chants of "Save Our Medicare!" at full volume isn't going to work. Just the opposite: we need

to identify what's most important and mobilize our forces into action. This begins with Medicare Part D: the most fundamental aspect of the Medicare program that helps millions of HIV/AIDS patients every day. Passed in 2003 and implemented in 2006, the program gives seniors access to affordable prescription drug coverage, with premiums actually decreasing despite skyrocketing healthcare costs.

Despite the program's success, President Obama's latest plan would save \$130 billion by forcing drug manufacturers to pay rebates to the government. But those "savings" will only lead to higher premiums being paid by Medicare patients, up to 40 percent according to one study. In light of the critical, life-saving value of HIV drug therapies, there are better areas to reduce the budget than one of the few government-run success stories for patients struggling with HIV/AIDS. Back home they often said when things are going well, "let that sleeping dog lie." Don't mess with it. Another idea that stands to harm millions is the Independent Payment Advisory Board, created under the Affordable Care Act to help bring down Medicare costs.

While any cost-reduction goals are noble, entrusting unprecedented power to a small, unelected and unaccountable group has large risks.

People with HIV/AIDS have learned the hard way what happens when our institutions are not held accountable. HIV/AIDS patients need greater access to quality care, not less.

And while many primary care doctors already limit the number of Medicare patients they see, the decisions of the IPAB will almost certainly lead to fewer patients being able to see the best doctors and receive the highest quality care. Last, but not least, we need to find ways to reinforce the amazing strides that have been made in HIV/AIDS research. The development of new drugs and antiretroviral combination therapies has had a massive impact on the quality of life for HIV patients.

Our knowledge of diseases has increased exponentially thanks to breakthroughs in understanding the human genome, giving us new hope that we can one day eradicate a disease that has claimed more than 25 million lives worldwide. But we've got to keep

People with HIV/AIDS have learned the hard way what happens when our institutions are not held accountable.

fighting to ensure research remains a top priority in both the private and public sectors. Implementing pro-research policies and protecting the budgets of the CDC and NIH are both vitally important to preserving the current programs that provide for millions of our citizens. It's time that the HIV/AIDS community join with supporters and adversaries alike by creating our own priorities in treating and curing this horrific disease. By substituting facts for rhetoric, engaging in the policy debates of the day and avoiding volume over reason, we can help elevate the level of discourse and ensure that America doesn't come out of this debate and the next elections even more divided than it is now.

Simply repeating chants of "Save Our Medicare!" at full volume isn't going to work. Just the opposite: we need to identify what's most important and mobilize our forces into action.

David Mixner has been involved in public life creating policy and as an HIV/AIDS and LGBT activist and writer for over 40 years. He has had two bestselling books, "Stranger Among Friends" and "Brave Journeys," both published by Bantam Books.

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