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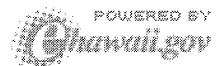


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HISTORY IN THE MAKING: Pawn Power

Popular reality show makes local shop a tourist hot spot

By JOHN PRZYBYS
LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

It has become the most unlikely tourist attraction in town. And if the notion of a pawnshop as a Las Vegas tourist draw seems odd, just think of the Gold & Silver Pawn Shop as a more populist version of the Liberace Museum, but with portraits of Jesus and Jim Morrison instead of the glittering pianist.

On a recent, and very hot, morning, the parking lot of the shop, at 713 Las Vegas Blvd. South, looks like an expensive Dodge'em ride at a downscale carnival. Cabbies, tourists in rental cars and the occasional local fight for space. Visitors walk into and out of the store clutching bags containing T-shirts, bobbleheads and other swag to remind them of the time they visited the set of TV's hottest reality show.

It's called "Pawn Stars," it's on the History channel, and it is, TV numbers crunchers tell us, America's No. 1 cable series among adults ages 25-54.

Its stars, the multigenerational Harrison family, have become pop culture icons mostly by doing what they were doing before the cameras arrived. Now, thanks to the magic of reality TV, their shop is both a mecca and a must-stop for fans who come to Las Vegas.

The signs of fan-love are everywhere, from the exhausted expression on the woman telling her husband as they leave the shop, "Another check mark on your list," to the smile on the jubilant guy who walks out, marveling, "He's standing there, Big Hoss is."

On some days, there's a line of fans waiting their turn to enter the shop. Today, thanks to expected triple-digit temperatures, there's no wait at all.

Inside, though, the place is packed, as fans peer into glass cases, wait in line for a photo with Harrison family patriarch Richard Harrison and load up on souvenirs. But don't mistake these people as callow followers of JerseyShoreBachelorFlavorofLove-type reality geekfests. Here, fans say, history is the appeal.

Joel and Debbie Douthett, visiting from Jacksonville, Fla., call themselves huge fans of the show and, Joel says, "History channel junkies."

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And, OK, there's the interaction of the characters, too. Debbie is, in fact, leaving with a bobblehead of Rick Harrison that, she claims, is for a colleague who "kind of has a thing for Rick."

Visiting the shop also is a priority for the Wade family of Alliance, Ohio. "This is one thing the boys wanted to see," dad Dave Wade says. "They could care less about anything else."

Son Austin, 13, says, however, that he "didn't expect that many people in there."

Art Camacho of Anaheim, Calif., admits to being surprised that he'd become a fan of the show.

"We've been watching it since it came on the History channel," he says. "At first, we were kind of like, 'Come on. A pawnshop?' I thought reality TV was going the wrong way."

But, ultimately, Camacho finds that he is a sucker for "the characters and the family." Meanwhile, daughter Kaitlyn, 11, calls her visit to the shop "pretty cool. We saw Big Hoss coming out, talking to a person. It was pretty cool."

"Big Hoss" is Corey Harrison, representing the third generation of the Harrison clan, who, it turns out, is as surprised as anybody that his family's place of business would become a tourist destination.

"It's wonderful," he says, "but at the same time, if you told me two years ago there was any possible way we'd get 1,700 to 2,000 people (a day) through the front door, I would have called you a liar."

Harrison says that, since the show began, the store's staff has increased from 13 to 47 and the shop's merchandise has expanded from the usual range of watches, rings, swords, paintings and other cool stuff -- seriously: actual Olympic medals and an IBF championship belt! -- to also include less expensive mementos for tourists to take home.

If "Pawn Stars" has a superfan, it may be Inga Pershing, who says she came from Richmond, Va., just to get a hug from the elder Harrison.

Why? "I don't know," she says. "I like that man. I see him on TV and I wanted a hug from him."

She got it, too. Pershing says she came to Las Vegas with a few friends, but left them at Treasure Island while she went on her "Pawn Stars" pilgrimage.

Was it worth it? "Oh yeah," Pershing says.

And for a true history fan, there's Andrew Rosas, 11, of San Ramon, Calif., who came to the shop with academic credentials: Not only is he a fan of the show, but the show prompted him to write a school paper about Nevada.

Andrew says that what he likes most about the show is "seeing all the historical artifacts."

In fact, Andrew can make a trip to the Gold & Silver Pawn Shop sound like a school field trip. Why, he is asked, should somebody include a visit to the shop on their vacation itinerary?

Because, Andrew answers, "there are a lot of expensive and historical artifacts that are a part of American history."

And some pretty cool bobbleheads and T-shirts, too.

Contact reporter John Przybys at jprzybys@reviewjournal.com or 702-383-0280.

Find this article at:

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MOST UNLIKELY TOURIST ATTRACTION IN LAS VEGAS

TV show turns Las Vegas pawn shop into tourist attraction



Image via [lvrv.com](#)

BY JOHN PRZYBYS | JUL 29, 2010

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Source: lvrj.com

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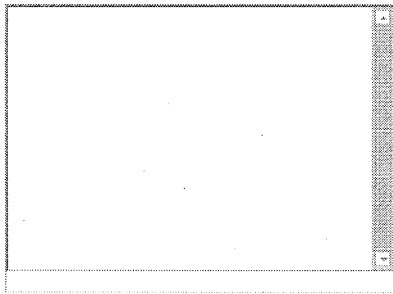
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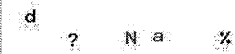


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NEVADA TOURISM

Las Vegas poll: No hookers or hashish



Image via ebaumsworld.com

BY JENNIFER ROBISON | AUG 30, 2010

A new Review-Journal/8NewsNow poll found a strong majority of Nevadans against legalizing marijuana and prostitution to boost tourism. On the pot question, 64 percent of respondents gave the thumbs-down to Dutch-style hashish and marijuana bars in Las Vegas. Residents weighing in against brothels in Clark County proved even more overwhelming, with 79 percent of participants registering disapproval.

Mason-Dixon Polling & Research conducted the survey of 405 registered Clark County voters. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percentage points.

Brad Coker, a pollster with Mason-Dixon, said even Nevada's live-and-let-live ethos couldn't nudge voters toward acceptance of controversial laws.

"Things are maybe a little desperate in Clark County these days, but I don't think they're quite that desperate yet," Coker said. "These kinds of issues push the limits of even a libertarian community. You could go to some very liberal communities, and the idea of legalizing prostitution would probably raise a few eyebrows."

Plus, setting up pot bars would fly against the broader, more mainstream visitor base local hotel-casino operators and tourism officials have worked to attract to Southern Nevada, Coker said. And then there's the

public-safety issue: It's one thing to endorse pot smoking in the privacy of the home, but sticking hash bars on street corners is a whole different scene. Smokers might drive home after indulging, and that could make some voters leery of the idea, Coker said.

Nevada's voters have the right idea, though, said Bill Thompson, a University of Nevada, Las Vegas professor who specializes in gambling studies and has observed the Las Vegas tourism market for 30 years.

Legalizing local brothels and hash bars would actually hurt the city's hospitality sector, Thompson said.

For one thing, forget about girlfriends and wives tolerating their boyfriends' and husbands' weekend guys' forays to a brothel-heavy Las Vegas. Legalizing prostitution here would unequivocally place Las Vegas in the category of unacceptable places to visit, Thompson said.

Besides, if prostitution could yield such a great economic boost, then Mound House would be the Nevada town that hosts 36 million visitors a year.

"And I think you should really consider what kind of people this would draw," Thompson said. "We don't need anymore sleazy people. It would be like having an NBA All-Star Weekend here every week."

Nor would pot bars bolster the gaming sector, Thompson said.

He and late UNLV economist Keith Schwer studied compulsive gamblers a while back and found that drinkers had the most severe issues with problem gambling, while drug users had the least-serious gambling habits. The lesson? Get consumers high, and they'll spend less time at the craps

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tables. As Thompson points out, he's walked into casinos at least 1,000 times, and never has he smelled marijuana in the air.

Despite the obstacles, numerous policymakers and advocacy groups have proposed legalizing prostitution or pot in Nevada and Las Vegas.

Most famously, Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman in 2003 suggested turning downtown's East Fremont Street into a "little Amsterdam," and called prostitution a potential "redevelopment tool." Legalized brothels would also generate revenue and provide a safer environment for the sex trade, he said.

Goodman wasn't available to comment for this article before press time.

Initiatives to legalize marijuana appeared on state ballots in 2002 and 2006, going down in defeat both times. Sixty-one percent opposed the 2002 question calling for allowing Nevadans to carry three ounces of pot. The 2006 version fared a little better, with 56 percent voting it down.

And hilarity ensued in 2004 when pro-pot advocates lost petitions with roughly 6,000 signatures endorsing their ballot question, and subsequently failed to submit the documents to election registrars before the deadline. ("Dude, we forgot to take these sigs to The Man, man!!")

More recently, advocacy group Nevadans for Sensible Marijuana Laws lost national backing from the Marijuana Policy Project in a bid to get yet another pro-legalization question on the ballot in 2012. Group leaders acknowledged on Aug. 3 that their effort could end as a result, though they didn't respond to a query for this story.

Source: lvrj.com
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Gwen Beck on August 31, 2010 - 5:11am

"And I think you should really consider what kind of people this would draw," Thompson said. "We don't need anymore sleazy people. It would be like having an NBA All-Star Weekend here every week."

Since the NBA All-Stars are almost entirely black, does he mean hookers tend to be black? Statistically, 75% of females with HIV/AIDS are African-American. HIV/AIDS is disproportionately high in the black population.

All-Star weekend in Vegas has been linked to "The Black KKK"

What Thompson might be saying is we don't need a bunch of black ho streetwalkers in town and the black tourists patronizing them. We also don't want stoned pot heads laying around doing nothing. We want classy white money deposited into our opulent casinos. Let the friff-fraff stay home.

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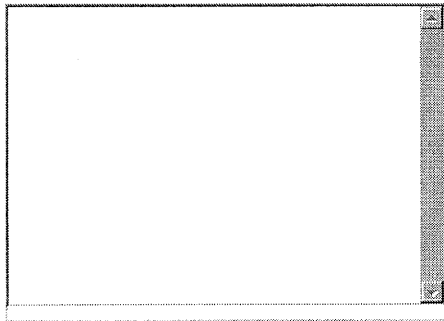
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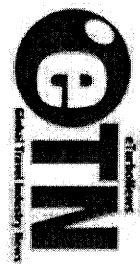
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Las Vegas poll: No hookers or hashish



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Las Vegas Hospitality Association announces 2009 board of directors

By ERIC STAFF WRITER | Jan 23, 2009



Linda Ness, LHVHA chair, announces organization's new 2009 board of directors. Photo from courtesy.

LAS VEGAS, NV – Linda Ness, president of the Las Vegas Hospitality Association (LHVHA), a nearly 500-member Las Vegas tourism industry organization, announced its new 2009 board of directors at its January 20 installation luncheon held at the Westin Casuarina as she stepped into the role of chairwoman of the board.

The incoming board is:

- Chairwoman, Linda Ness, Freeman Company**
- President, CeCe Knapp, Hookers Vice President of Hotel Operators**
- President-Elect, Stacey Purcell, Las Vegas Meetings**
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 - J. J. Willis, Las Vegas Meetings Heretofore's Entertainment
 - Melissa Zerko, Hello Las Vegas
- Ce Ce Knapp, who also served as president of the LHVHA in 2002, outlined her goals for this year. She hopes to increase membership, raise awareness of tourism education, facilitate even more giving in the community, and nurture leadership in gaming and tourism.
- Ness recognized 33 sponsors that assisted with 13 LHVHA events in 2008, and four silent philanthropists.

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EXHIBIT 6

EXHIBIT 6

-APPLICATION-

Title _____

Title of Work: Pawn Power. Popular reality show makes local shop a tourist hot spot

Completion/Publication _____

Year of Completion: 2010

Date of 1st Publication: July 29, 2010

Nation of 1st Publication: United States

Author _____

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Author Created: text

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Citizen of: United States

Domiciled in: United States

Copyright claimant _____

Copyright Claimant: Righthaven LLC

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Transfer Statement: By written agreement

Rights and Permissions _____

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Certification _____

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Date: September 2, 2010

Applicant's Tracking Number: 0002072

Registration #:

Service Request #: 1-481234828

Application Date: 09-02-2010 20:13:38

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