

From Behind Our White Picket Fence Week 116  
By Freddy and Eddy (www.freddyandeddy.com)

### The Sham that is Las Vegas



In 1984, four of us jumped in a car with \$25.00 each in our pockets and headed off to Las Vegas. Arriving less than four hours later – and nary a car in sight along the uncrowded I-15 – we checked into our room at Circus Circus. It was \$8.00 for the night, split four ways. We immediately headed down to the \$2.99 dinner buffet and filled up on stomach churning, carb heavy dishes, then drove downtown to Fremont St. to play nickle machines and got plastered on freebie cocktails served in plastic cups.

Whenever hunger struck, we'd grab a 25 cent shrimp cocktail, hot dog, or simply find a casino with free popcorn or chips to soak up the alcohol. By morning, we stumbled into a 99 cent breakfast of eggs, toast, home fries, coffee and juice before embarking on our journey home, half our original monetary allowance still jingling in our pockets.

To put things in further perspective, the Tropicana was the premier resort on what was then the most remote area of the strip.

Twenty three years later, the two of us hit the road to last week's AEE (Adult Entertainment Expo), battling the now traffic-choked artery that is the 15, arriving five hours later to the congested mess that is Las Vegas today. We checked into our \$200.00 per night bargain-rate room at the dumpy Imperial Palace, then squeezed our way through the throngs of people crowding the sidewalks between us and Caesar's Palace, where we'd hoped to get a decent bite to eat at Cheesecake Factory. Along the way, we were forced to pass through the Forum Shops, which we can only liken to an indoor Rodeo Drive on HGH, then three massive casinos, another corridor of high-end shopping, finally reaching our destination just as some obnoxious animatronics Leviathan show fired up, causing chaos among the crowd jostling for better views. Once at Cheesecake Factory, we discovered the wait was almost two hours for a table, sending us back into the Vegas night in search of a meal that wouldn't set us back next month's mortgage.

Such is the reality of today's Sin City; an expensive, overrated, and altogether unfulfilling experience masquerading as some adult Disneyland where anything goes and supposedly things are "happening" that "stay" in Vegas. The only thing "happening" in that rip-off town, however, is the criminal plundering of our wallets in just about every manner conceivable. From being charged for drink refills at the Grand Lux to Starbucks refusing to honor gift cards to the wholesale rape occurring at clubs and restaurants in every mega casino, we've finally spent our last dollar in that awful dump and will not be

returning to AEE ever again. How Las Vegas continues to grow without pause is a testament to either the greatest PR campaign ever waged or to our stupidity as a species with inexhaustible capacity to be duped time and time again.

And yet, we still can't help but admire the city's genius, even if we won't be falling victim to its lure any longer. Take Las Vegas' bread and butter – gambling – for example. Did you know you can't find the actual word “gambling” anywhere along the strip? Take a walk and see for yourself; it's been totally stricken from the lexicon to be replaced by “gaming” and “entertainment.” So when you're losing that 25 grand at blackjack, just be comforted in the fact it's only a “game” and that you've been highly “entertained.” This reached comic heights during the World Series of Poker as the two finalists exhorted God to help them win the last hand, their families holding hands and shouting prayers as the last cards were drawn. Imagine, invoking God to help you win in poker! That's true brilliance defined.

We're so impressed by Vegas continued success, in fact, we've taken their accomplishment as inspiration for our Love LA Show (you've bought tickets, right? [www.lovelashow.com](http://www.lovelashow.com)). If they can transform “gambling” into something positive and religiously positive, putting forth a sex-positive message should be comparatively easy.

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