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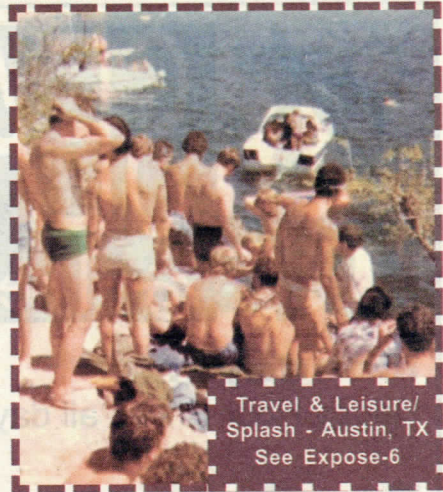
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VOLUME 23

ISSUE 8

April 12-25, 2005

Jazz Fest/Pre-Splash



Travel & Leisure/
Splash - Austin, TX
See Expose-6

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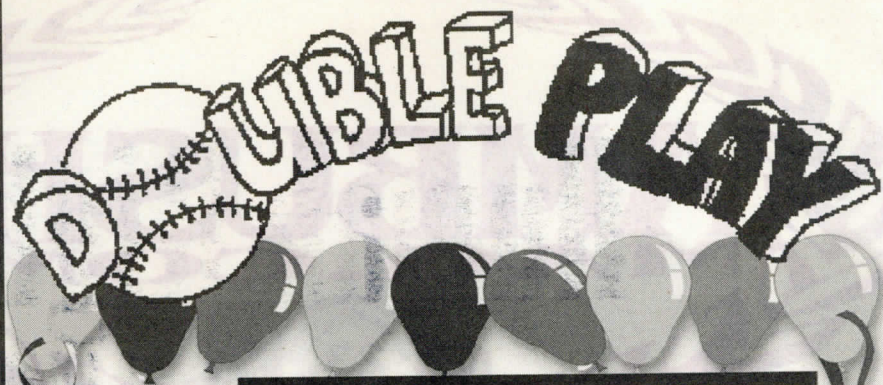
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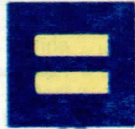
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WHAT'S HOT

by Rip & Marsha Naquin-Delain
www.ripandmarsha.com
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Over 15,000 Spectators Line the Streets; 6th Gay Easter Parade Raises \$7,019.91 for Food For Friends

Over 15,000 spectators lined the streets of the French Quarter for the 6th annual Official New Orleans Gay Easter Parade on Easter Sunday, March 27, 2005. Led by Easter Grand Marshals VI James Swire and Lisa Beaumann, the number of spectators more than tripled last year's parade. The parade which boasted over 225 participants showcased the culture, color and creativity of the GLBT community.

All proceeds minus parade expenses benefited Food For Friends for the third year raising \$7,019.91. Although the goal was \$5,000 this year, incredible support for the parade's fundraisers surpassed all expectations. Previous parades raised a total of \$8,663.27 for charities since the parade became a fund-raising tool during its third year.

The 2005 Financial Report prepared on April 12, 2005 follows:

Parade Income: Sponsorships - 4,600.00, GM Reception (Corner Pocket) - 51.00, Spring Fever (4 Seasons) - 1,315.00, Star Studded Benefit (Cowpokes) - 1,512.00, GEP Benefit (Golden Lantern) - 226.00, Purple Party (Double Play) - 1,452.00, Alice in Leatherland (Phoenix) - 537.00, Parade Entry Fees - 175.00
TOTAL INCOME \$9,868.00

Parade Expenses: Parade Permit - 50.25, Police Escort - 815.00, Insurance - 630.00, Carriages/EGM VIs - 470.00; Parade Line-up Fee - 100.00, Band - 700.00, Banner - 82.84
TOTAL EXPENSES \$2,848.09

2005 PROFITS benefiting Food For Friends - \$7,019.91.

Special thanks to the entire community and to all official parade sponsors for their outstanding generosity including:

- Presenting • **Ambush Mag**, Queen Fashions;
- Platinum \$1,000 • Electra City & Tittie Toulouse, Cowpokes, Double Play, 4 Seasons, Rip & Marsha Naquin-Delain, **Whiz Magazine**;
- Gold \$500 • Phoenix, Pride Specialty, Quartermaster: The Nellie Deli;
- Silver \$250 • Zach Camardelle & Starr Daniels, Jay Cooper & Gizelle Bouvier, Corner Pocket, Golden Lantern, Graham Studio One, Oz New Orleans, Queen's Head Pub/Good Friends Bar, Starlight, Paul VanGeffen;
- Bronze \$100 • Craig Austin, Paul Davis & Tami Tarmac, Andy & Phyllis Denmark, King Cake Queen Royalty Club, Krewe of Mwindo, Chris & Buffy Naquin-Delain, Doc Reed.

The parade sponsors donate cash and/or in kind contributions. Cash sponsors included Electra City & Tittie Toulouse/Queen Fashions, Rip & Marsha Naquin-Delain/**Ambush Mag**, Quartermaster: The Nellie Deli, Zach Camardelle & Starr Daniels, Jay Cooper & Gizelle Bouvier, Oz New Orleans, Paul VanGeffen, Craig Austin, Paul Davis & Tami Tarmac, Andy & Phyllis Denmark, King Cake Queen Royalty Club, Krewe of Mwindo, Chris & Buffy Naquin-Delain and Doc Reed.

In kind contributors of advertising, services or other donations included **Ambush Mag**, Queen Fashions, **Whiz Magazine**, Pride Specialty and Graham Studio One.

Venue sponsors (at the Silver level) who donated the use of their facility, some donating buffets and prizes included Cowpokes, Double Play, 4 Seasons, Phoenix, Corner Pocket, Golden Lantern, Queen's Head Pub/Good Friends Bar and Starlight. The venues which hosted fund-raisers which brought in more than \$500 or \$1,000 were graduated to either

the Gold or Platinum sponsorship level.

The 8th annual Official Gay Easter Parade rolls on Easter Sunday, April 16, 2006 at 4:30 pm. The Board of Directors of the Gay Easter Parade include Rip & Marsha Naquin-Delain, and Electra City & Tittie Toulouse and they oversee all activities, events, selection of grand marshals and parade route each year. Visit www.GayEasterParade.COM for additional information.

Miss Gay America Joins Ambush Staff

Ambush is excited to announce that reigning Miss Gay America, New Orleans' own Raquel Chevallier, (www.RaquelChevallier.COM), has joined this publication as a monthly contributor. The new column, titled **Raquel's Reality**, will cover the beauty queen's travels around the country as the prestigious Miss Gay America. Catch her column on Main-30 in this edition.

Chevallier is also the Miss Gay Louisiana America promoter and you can learn more about the state system on-line at www.MissLouisianaAmerica.COM.

36th Annual Jazz Fest April 22-May 1

New Orleans - The 36th annual Jazz and Heritage Festival is April 22-May 1. The Festival's Louisiana Heritage Fair at the Fair Grounds Race Course will offer a total of 12 performance stages running simultaneously on April 22-24 and April 28-May 1 from 11am to 7pm.

For the first time, the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival will feature the Jazz & Heritage Stage, solely dedicated to some of New Orleans most vibrant music and most venerable cultural traditions—the sights and sounds of brass bands, Mardi Gras Indians, and Social Aid & Pleasure Clubs.

The Jazz & Heritage Stage will be part of a larger area where all Festival secondline parades, which have always been an important facet of the event, will begin and end. In addition to music performances and parades, this dynamic venue will also feature demonstration tents with Mardi Gras Indian costume sewing and secondline parade footage from Backstreet Cultural Museum documentarian Sylvester Francis.

Another new feature at this year's Jazz Fest is The Big Chief VIP Experience, a premium ticket package that includes the following: Festival admission with re-entry privileges; access to special viewing areas at major Festival stages and in some tents; the limited-edition Official

Festival Poster; access to an air conditioned hospitality lounge; special access to restrooms and beverage concessions; parking, if desired; and more. Big Chief tickets are extremely limited in number and will be sold by weekend only, so interested patrons should act quickly. First weekend Big Chief VIP tickets are \$550 and \$700 with parking. Second weekend tickets are \$650 and \$850 with parking. To purchase Big Chief VIP tickets and to find out more about the packages patrons should visit www.nojazzfest.com or call 800.594.TIXX. Service charges are not included in the prices quoted here.

On the eve of Jazz Fest, Grammy-winning superstar Natalie Cole will appear in "An Unforgettable Evening" as part of the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival & Foundation, Inc.'s annual Gala fundraiser, Thurs., April 21 at the Fairmont Hotel. Also performing will be Kermit Ruffins & the Barbeque Swingers with guests Donald Harrison and Big Sam; John Boutté; and Kind of Blue. Tickets to the event, which sell out each year, are currently available by calling 504.410.4148 and more information is available at the Foundation's web site, www.nojhf.org.

The Festival will also feature a series of Educational Programs, formerly the Workshop Series, at various venues in the New Orleans area. Special programs for local school children will be held at the Heritage Fair on Thurs., April 28. The Festival's Evening Concerts Series has been suspended for 2005.

Tickets for the Heritage Fair are available and can be purchased at the Festival's web site, www.nojazzfest.com, at all Ticketmaster outlets including www.ticketmaster.com, and by phone at 800.488.5252 and 504.522.5555 in New Orleans. Tickets are also available in New Orleans at the Louisiana Superdome Box Office (Gate A, Ground Level). Daily tickets for the Heritage Fair are \$25. These advance tickets are subject to service charges at the various outlets. Tickets at the gate will be \$35. Daily tickets for children under age 12 are \$5 in advance and at the gate.

Saints and Sinners Literary Fest Kick-Off Reading Set

Saints and Sinners, an alternative literary festival for the LGBT community, their friends and anyone interested in reading and writing. The weekend will include workshops, panel discussions, reading series, book signings, and special events. Topics will range from building an author website, to queer southern identity to the language of erotica.

The festival will be held Fri., May 13 to Sun., May 15 in the Heart of the French Quarter, using Club 735 as headquarters, where there will be readings, panels, and a bookfair. Other venues used will be the Bourbon Pub and Napoleon's Itch.

The Festival will kickoff on Tues., April 12 at Garden District Bookstore from 6 – 8pm with a reading preview. Featured authors will include: Greg Herren, J. M. Redmann, Scott Bailey, Marda Burton and Bev Marshall.

Presenters at the Saints and Sinners Lit-

erary Festival will include such nationally known authors as: Jim Grimsley, Sarah Schulman, Tim Miller, John Mergoñ Wilson, Patricia Nell Warren, Radclyffe, Al McDermaid, M. Christian, Emanuel Xavier, Ellen Hart and Patrick Califa. Many of New Orleans favorites will also be on hand: Poppy Z. Brite, Kevin Allman, Kay Murphy, Greg Herren, J. M. Redmann, Marty Ward and Patricia Brady.

The festival has a two-fold purpose. One is to raise funds for the NO/AIDS Task Force, a community based AIDS Service Organization that serves the New Orleans area. The other goal of the event is to serve as a community awareness forum, something to show another positive side of the LGBTQ community. While there must be many facets to HIV prevention, one way is to give the community other positive, healthy social outlets.

Other events for the weekend include a Friday night kickoff party hosted by **Ambush Mag**, author dinners, a performance by nationally renowned artist Tim Miller, and a closing reception and awards ceremony hosted by the Bourbon Pub.

[continued on Main-6]

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Splash/Cinco de Mayo/Mother's Day Edition
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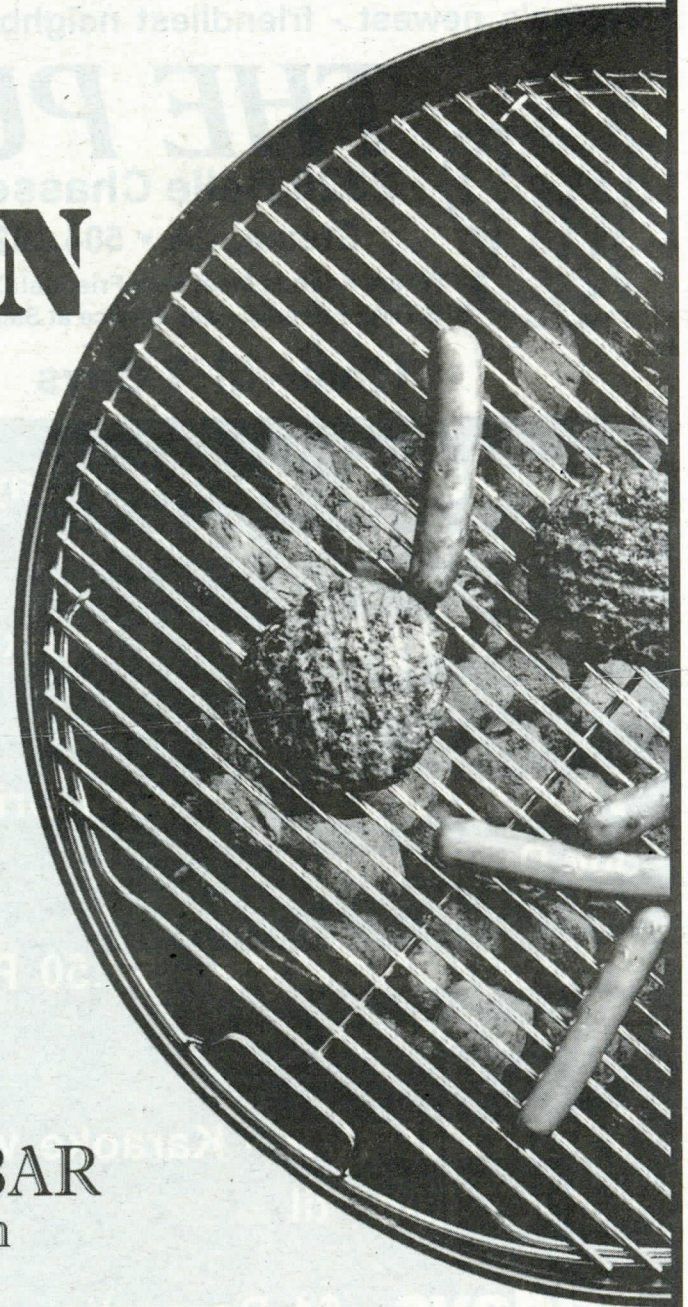
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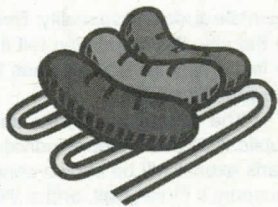
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what's hot ...from Main-4

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NOMA Reception Heralds Paris Exhibit April 14

New Orleans - Technology and a French-themed reception at the New Orleans Museum of Art will complete a strong New Orleans connection to the work of J.B. "Burt" Harter and eight others featured in a new and distinctive exhibit of Gay artists opening in Paris, France.

The J.B. Harter Charitable Foundation, established through the estate of the late artist, will host the local event from 6pm - 8pm on April 14. The New Orleans event is timed to include a Web cast of the grand opening in Paris of *Classicism Subverted: Gay Art in the 21st Century*, an exhibition of the work nine internationally-known gay artists at Studios Plat du Jour. The introduction to the exhibition's catalogue is written by British artist Edward Lucie-Smith, who is also a featured artist in the show.

Selected examples of Harter's original artwork will also be exhibited at the New Orleans reception.

Before an unidentified assailant murdered him in his home on March 13, 2002, Harter lived and worked in New Orleans where he served on the curatorial staff of the Louisiana State Museum and the Historic New Orleans Collection for 20 years. Others represented in the Paris exhibition also have New Orleans connections.

"Many people in New Orleans are unfamiliar with Burt's work. Although his work was shown in other cities and a book of his art was published prior to his death, Burt's art was exhibited only once in New Orleans, explained Jack Sullivan, adviser for the J.B. Harter Charitable Foundation.

"The Paris exhibition is a great opportunity to expand awareness of his interpretations of

the male nude and sexuality. Because of his ties to the city, the foundation felt it was important to find a way for New Orleans to participate in the grand opening."

The reception is free and open to the public. A detailed video of individual pieces in the Paris exhibit will be shown continuously in the museum's Great Hall, and a Web cast "virtual tour" of the grand opening will be televised at the party. Hospitality includes French-style wines and food.

"We believe this simulcast is a first for an art exhibit opening," Sullivan said.

Organized and curated by New Orleans artist Roberto Rincon, whose work is also part of the exhibition, the show features artists from four countries and their diverse interpretations of the male body and its classical metaphors.

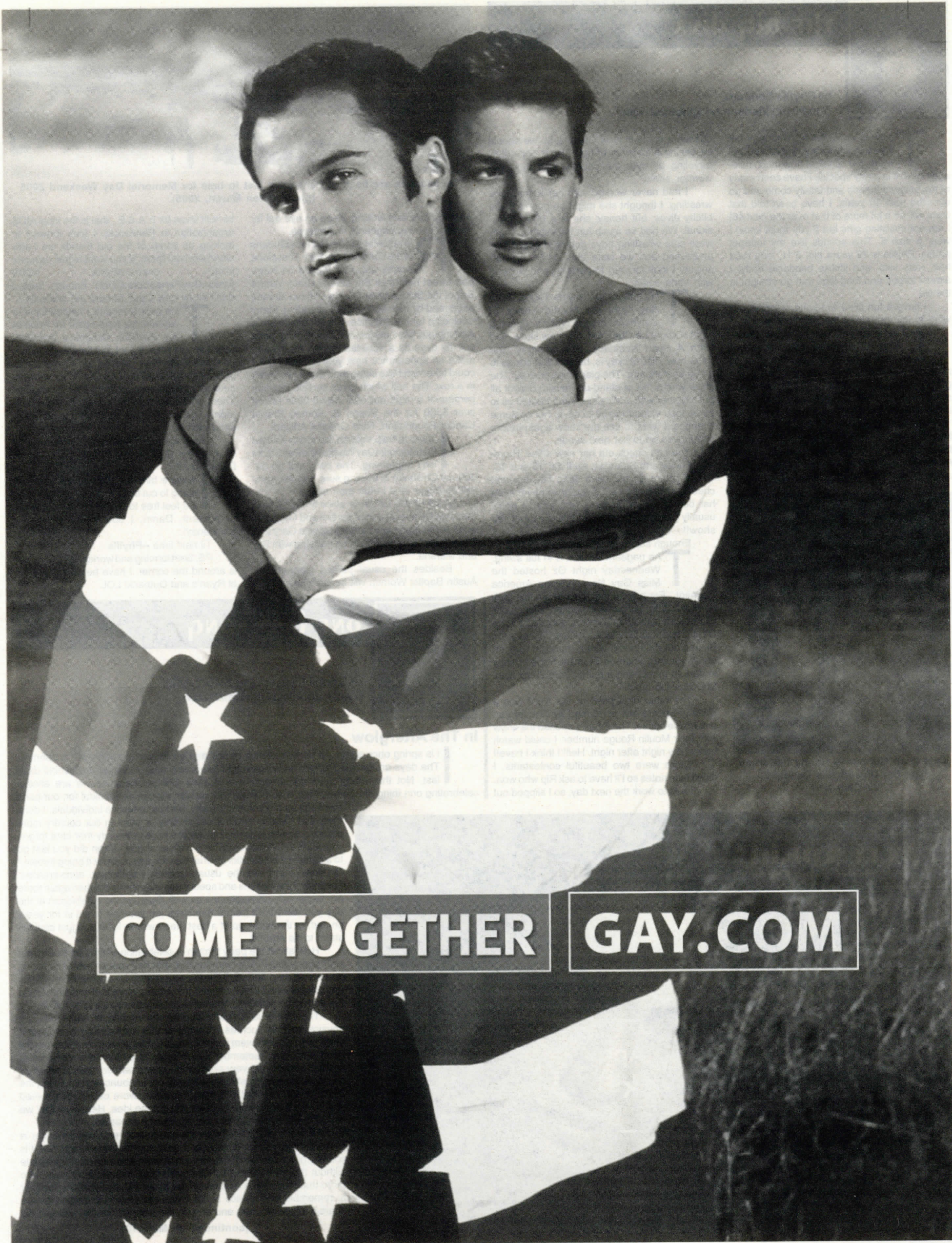
>From the United States: J.B. Harter, Jonathan Webb, Roberto Rincon, Delmas Howe and Wallace Merritt. From France: Roland Beaufre and Oliver C. From the United Kingdom: Edward Lucie-Smith. From Greece: Dimitris Yeros.

NO/AIDS Patron Party & Humanitas Award Presentation A Success

NO/AIDS Task Force's annual Patron Party was held on March 31. The House of Blues graciously hosted the event, which is designed to thank the patrons and sponsors of NO/AIDS.

NO/AIDS also presents the Humanitas Award at this event. The award, the highest honor NO/AIDS bestows, is presented to an individual who has had a significant impact on the Task Force and assisted in the betterment of countless lives. The honoree is presented with a crystal bowl, which signifies the full spectrum of the human condition. Past honorees include: Richard Devlin, Michael Callay, Peter Brasswell, Glen Kahman, Roy Templeman,

[continued on Main-12]



COME TOGETHER

GAY.COM



THE big diva

by Phyllis Denmark
E-mail: phyllisdenmark@hotmail.com

Today is my birthday! That may not mean much to the rest of you but when you consider how much mileage I have it is pretty special. I have seen many of my beloved friends and family come and go over the past 46 years. I have been told that there will be a lot more of that over the next 46! I am not soliciting gifts but if you must know I wear a size 6. This sounds like my Internet profile. Phyllis is 29 years old, 5'11, long read hair, ivory skin, and lifelike bendable body! I almost forgot, and long legs that go straight in the air!

I have a fun filled weekend planned, but want to tell y'all about the past few weeks.

Last week I did Celebrity Lube Wrestling at Cowpokes. With the help of some fabu folks we were able to raise over \$1,800 dollars. The best part was I got to wrestle Delta Louise Carter. She gave me a run for my money but I still won. That was a lot of meat on the mat.

The real stars of the night were Varla Jean Merman and Savanna DeLorean. They were fabu as they mugged for the cameras. I love Miss Varla; she can spot a camera from a mile away. If you don't know, Varla Jean has pur-

chased a home in New Orleans, so we should be seeing a lot more of her. She is constantly traveling all over the country with her one-woman show.

I had never worked with her before lube wrestling. I thought she might be one of those bitchy divas, but honey, she is a true professional. We had so much fun backstage. There were cute wrestling boys getting dressed and undressed and we were able to amuse ourselves. I look forward to partying and working with Varla again.

This brings me to my next item. Thursday night the Mystic Krewe of Satyricon hosted Varla's opening night show at Le Chat Noir. Her new show, *Girl With A Pearl Necklace*, was fabulous. You know how Miss Mickey is; he sold 300 tickets to a 100-seat theatre. The place was packed. The show was a mix of stand-up, music, Schick all put together with a storyline. Varla treated us to some fabu video footage to cover her costume changes. I want to see the show again before she moves on to her next venue.

You can check out her new show Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 14, 15 and 16.

If you're an old Varla Jean fan, fun and cheese were had by all! If you have never seen her before, you're in for a real treat. I don't usually play theatre critic but this is a must see show!!

Enough said now let's get back to ME!

The pageant season is in full swing. Wednesday night Oz hosted the Miss Gay New Orleans America Pageant. For a town that likes to act like they don't like drag, the bar was packed. Bianca Del Rio hosted with entertainment supplied by the Oz girls and Miss Gay America Raquel Chevallier. Bianca out did herself with a monolog that left nothing sacred unturned. From the Pope's penny loafers to tormenting a tourist from Wisconsin. She was too much.

The other high point of the night was a Brittany Spears mix performed by Raquel that tore up the house. The Oz girls opened the show with their Moulin Rouge number. I could watch their show night after night. Hell! I think I have!!

There were two beautiful contestants. I didn't take notes so I'll have to ask Rip who won. I had to work the next day, so I slipped out



The beaches are back in Pensacola just in time for Memorial Day Weekend 2005 (photo taken March, 2005).

when no one was looking. Keep an eye out for more upcoming pageants in *Ambush*.

Rip and Marsha are the new Queens of the Crack Whore Ball. That alone scares me. Our friends on Rampart Street held their 6th annual Crack Whore Ball at the Starlight last Monday. I have already been read by Irish Mike for not attending. Many apologize for my absence. But Michael! I am a working girl. My new job and Uncle Andy have cut my days as a socialite back! I promise to make an appearance next year. I don't think I could take Irish Mike being mad at me two years in a row. The ball which gives service industry personnel a night out after Mardi Gras raised over \$300 for the Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, New Orleans Affiliate.

I have to help squash the many rumors that Memorial Day Weekend in Pensacola isn't happening. The party will go on. Johnny Chisholm is making sure that the party will be bigger and better than ever.

A lot of the beach is already rebuilt and there will be a weekend of parties and fun. Andy and I will be going and meeting up with Gary and Dave from Austin and plan on partying with Rip and Marsha.

Besides the usual parties planned the Austin Baptist Women will be performing for a

benefit show for E.A.S.E., that is the local AIDS organization in Pensacola. I look forward to looking up some of the old friends we knew when we lived there. If you want to join us make your reservations NOW (www.GayPensacola.COM)! Enough Said, I don't know how these rumors get started!!!

This past weekend I helped Donnie Jay with his fund-raiser for Pride at the Starlight, *Dragging For Dollars*. I know I preach a lot, but for everyone that criticizes Pride New Orleans, do something to help, or shut the hell up. Our Gay Pride can only survive through support from the community. There will be a lot of fund-raisers over the next month and a half or so. Please try to attend or send money.

I want to be as proud of our Gay Pride as I am of the Gay Easter Parade or Southern Decadence!!

I have a birthday to celebrate, so I am going to cut this article short. If you see me feel free to buy me a birthday drink or present. Damn, I sound like Princesse Stephaney!

Til next time --Phyllis

PS: Start tanning and working out. Summer is around the corner. I have been working out at Ryan's and Outback! LOL



Varla Jean Merman & Randy Patterson
(The Big Diva-Phyllis Denmark)
Le Chat Noir



ONE LAST SONG

by Donnie "Jager" Jay, SDGM XXXII
E-mail: donniejay@hotmail.com

In The Afterglow

It is spring once again. All life is renewing its self and a new season of growth is upon us. The days are growing longer once again and the dreary days of winter are behind us at last. Not that many days are dreary here in New Orleans because we are always celebrating one thing or another. That is something that we can always be thankful for, our party mentality as a community, a city, and as collective individuals. I don't think that there is another city, county or state in our country more prone to having a party than we are here in the city that care forgot.

Just think about this for a minute or two. When did you last go to a party or a celebration? What was the occasion for it being thrown? Oh sure, there are the usual reasons - birthdays, anniversaries, baptisms, graduations and special achievements, but then again there are some very unusual ones as well. Such as the celebration of the day you were fired from a thankless job you had toiled in for years on end, or the break up of a best friend whose lover you just couldn't stand to be around.

How about the party thrown in celebration of the fact that at last your puppy has finally learned what that newspaper has been laying on your kitchen floor for? Finally he (or she) has come to realize its real purpose and that it has not just been placed there as a chewing toy and to be scattered through every other room in the house.

Then there is a celebration for the ending of some obscure physical malady such as the removal of a rather pesky corn on the small toe. I actually went to one for this, though it was more than twenty years ago, I can remember it to this day. The host, who was a fussy uptown queen, and very prone to throwing parties, having no other reason to throw one, she actually sent out announcements. Being the oh so clever one that she was, her favors were candy corn served in corn removal pad boxes. Well you get the idea. Here any way; we can and will throw a party for almost any occasion.

One of the occasions we celebrate in a very grand manner is of course the demise of someone near and dear to us, whether it is a family or a dear friend, the passing over ritual could not be complete without the after party. At these gatherings friends and family, who more than likely have no contact due to our life-style, gather together to remember and rejoice in the times gone by, fond memories are shared. They eat, drink and revel in the fact that they are at least still

[continued on Main-10]

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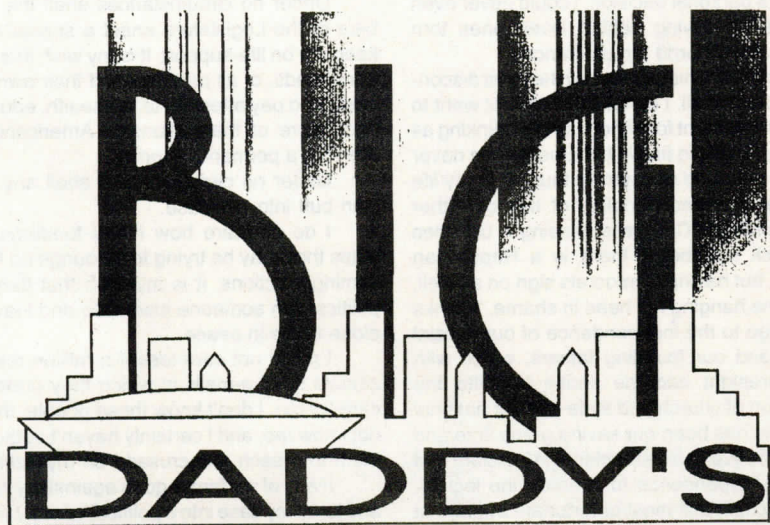
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Happy Hour

7 Days • 4-9pm

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one last song ...from Main-8

around to bid the departed good-bye. This comes to mind due to several of the events in the time just gone by. One certainly is the passing of the Pope. This being a rather largely Catholic town, I have been invited to at least two dozen, if not more, gatherings in his holiness' honor.

The other of course is the rather remorse handling of the Schiavo case, which had been followed almost as closely as a favorite soap opera, by almost everyone, both those in the *right to life* camp and those in the *right to die* camp. Where are those people in the middle standing?

Now, I certainly do not wish to make light of anyone's views on matters as sacred as this, but in truth, we will never know just what Mrs. Schiavo could possibly have wanted for herself, or even been feeling at a time such as this. The reason for this was a total absence of a living will or any other recorded desires voiced by the now deceased.

The medical profession stated that she was brain dead, but what exactly does this mean? Has anyone been brain-dead and returned to express exactly what this is like? Can anyone be sure of what is or isn't felt while in this precarious state? It gives one pause for thought, does it not? The question is a very personal one and must be faced on an individual basis. I know that many people are alarmed by the simple fact of their mortality, but facing up to that simple fact, that no one lives forever, I think it best that we all take a moment and ask ourselves, "What would I want for myself under these circumstances?"

To that question there is absolutely no right or wrong answer, but rather a very deep and personal choice. That is why I am writing about this subject today, in order to start those of you who may not have thought about it, to think of preparing a living will. There are many valid reasons for doing this, which should be very clear after the sideshow we all witnessed recently.

First, no one should have the final say over our last days other than ourselves. We all have our own beliefs, religious or otherwise, and thoughts about the after life, if indeed there is such a thing. This is a very personal choice; the right to die and not artificially extend ones time on this earth through a feeding tube or other means is the most powerful argument in making one's desires known before circumstances prevent one from doing so. It is the main reason that everyone should prepare a living will.

Secondly, who would ever want to put their loved ones and family through the pain and trauma of having to decide such a thing for them? I know I certainly would not even think of such a thing. As close as I am with my family, I know for a fact that not all of them are of the same mind in all matters concerning all things. I certainly cringe to think that they would have the added burden of arguing among themselves on such a personal decision. I could never even conceive of leaving behind loved ones torn apart in such horrid circumstances.

Third, and this is probably the most disconcerting point of all. I certainly would not want to be a publicity stunt for either camp of thinking as poor Mrs. Schiavo finally became. I have never been so outraged at anything thus far in my life than the wretched handling of this by either side. Somehow Congress passing a bill does not shock me, being there is a Republican majority, but having Democrats sign on as well, leaves me hanging my head in shame. Thanks have to go to the independence of our judicial system and our founding fathers, which with great foresight had the sense to write the separation of church and state into our national laws. This has been our saving grace time and time again. We can be thankful the judiciary had enough independence to override the legislative branch, in this most unfortunate attempt at interference in what must remain a personal and private matter.

I must reiterate here that I feel this is a personal matter, and if by chance, you wish to keep sustaining your existence by artificial means, in a vegetative state, you certainly have the right to do so, and no one should be able to

attempt to discourage or negate your wishes in this matter.

After much soul searching, I know just how I want things to be handled when I do *kick the bucket*. I just love that particular phrase. It sounds as if, like the rest of my life, it is just one more part of the game, and in having reached my personal decision, have in fact drawn and had notarized my own living will. My final decision really makes no difference here, and as I have stated, it is a very personal matter, so what I choose to do should have no bearing on anyone else's decision. I am not going to say what it was.

What I am going to say and I stress this as much as I can, please have your own living will done ASAP, because none of us really knows what tomorrow will bring our way. Remember, no matter which way you wish to address the subject, or what your current beliefs are, should they change, you can always write a new will, but for your own piece of mind, and that of your loved ones, state your preferences. Today is better than tomorrow in dealing with this, for many, tomorrow will be to late, and some of us may not be around to sing **ONE LAST SONG**.

You may download living will forms, free of charge at www.lg-legal.com/forms.htm. There are two living wills, Health Care Power of Attorney and a General Power of Attorney.

On another note, I have tried to segue myself to another subject but couldn't find a subtle way of doing so, so here it is. Pride New Orleans fund-raising committee is still accepting scripts for consideration for their August fund-raiser. Submissions should have a GLBT theme and be sent to either Todd Blauvelt, who will direct, at strazahund@aol.com, or Donnie Jay, chairman of fund-raisers at donniejay@hotmail.com. All submissions will be read by the production committee. Naturally we are looking for scripts, royalty free, as all monies raised will go directly to Pride New Orleans for funding Pride 2006. All materials received will be given equal consideration. Thanking everyone in advance for your participation.

I received the following e-mail just a few minutes ago and thought I might include it. It is strictly the opinion of it's author.

A. Nomaniss.

Living Will

I, _____ (fill in the blank), Being of sound mind and body, do not wish to be kept alive indefinitely by artificial means. Under no circumstances should my fate be put in the hands of politicians, some who couldn't pass ninth-grade biology if their lives depended on it.

If a reasonable amount of time passes and I fail to sit up and ask for a cold beer, it should be presumed that I wouldn't ever get better.

When such a determination is reached, I hereby instruct my next of kin, my partner and attending physicians to pull the plug, reel in the tubes and call it a day.

Under no circumstances shall the members of the Legislature enact a special law to keep me on life-support. It is my wish that these boneheads, of all parties, mind their own business, and pay attention to the health, education and future of the millions of Americans who aren't in a permanent coma.

Under no circumstances shall any politician butt into this case.

I do not care how many fundamentalist votes they may be trying to scrounge up for the coming elections; it is my wish that they play politics with someone else's life and leave me alone to die in peace.

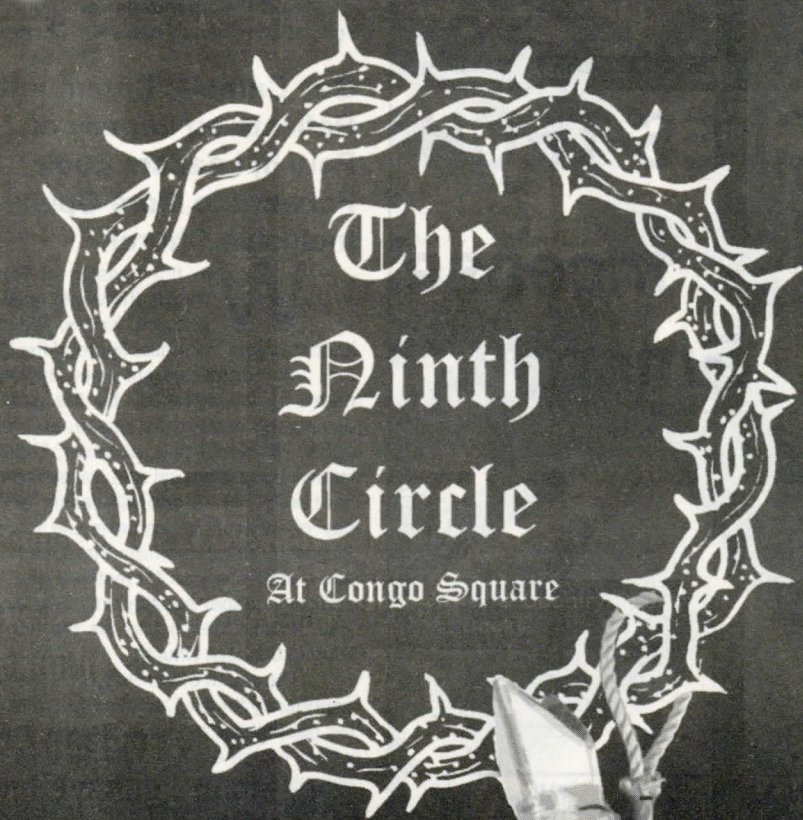
I could not care less if a million religious zealots send e-mails in which they pretend to care for me. I don't know these people, they do not know me, and I certainly haven't authorized them to preach and crusade on my behalf.

If any of my family goes against my wishes and turns my case into a political cause, I hereby promise to come back from the dead and make their existence a living hell.

You may contact me at donniejay@hotmail.com.

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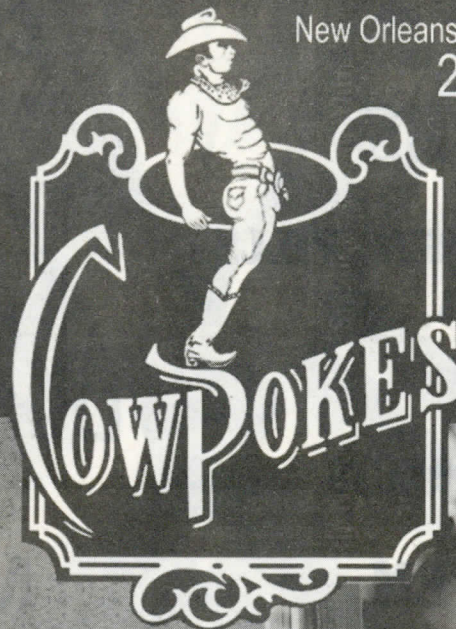


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- **FRIDAY** - Latin Dance Party with Luis 9PM - 2AM & The Dominique DeLorean Show 10:30PM
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what's hot ...from Main-6

Jim Melancon, Richard Thompson, Paula Kreissler, Helen Siegel, Paris Winn, Philip Dynia, Milton Sieler, Randy Trahan, Patti Garcia, Kim Boyle and Charlotte Cunliffe.

The 2004 Humanitas honorees are Dee and Bert Bertel. Having lost both their sons to AIDS in 1992 and 1993 respectively, the Bertels have been ardent supporters of the Task Force since 1992. They have been some of NO/AIDS hardest working volunteers and a source of support for so many who have been affected and infected with the virus. They have been vocal about their story, helping to put a human face on the AIDS epidemic and letting people know that HIV/AIDS affects not only the individual, but the family and extended family.

The Patron Party was graciously hosted by the House of Blues, who also provided the food. Florals were provided by Wayne Christenberry of Evergreen Florist. Cocktails were provided by RAIN Vodka, Sutter Home Wines and Abita Beer.

The NO/AIDS Task Force has been at the forefront of the battle against HIV disease since 1983. The agency offers a comprehensive array of compassionate and critical services such as prevention education, HIV antibody testing and counseling, community outreach, the Louisiana Statewide HIV Hotline, primary

medical care, early intervention services, peer support, mental health therapy, support groups, case management, housing coordination, medication assistance, home delivered meals and a food bank program. The NO/AIDS Task Force serves thousands of individuals through prevention education, community outreach and direct services for individuals living with HIV disease each year. Since its inception, Art Against AIDS has raised over a million dollars to support the efforts of the NO/AIDS Task Force.

Local Male Models Vie For \$1,000 National Prize Contest at OZ

Aspiring local male models will strut their stuff in a Male Model Search Contest for the chance to win a \$1,000 Grand Prize plus a featured roll in a national advertising campaign! Oz will host the April-May event featuring local men modeling items from MensUnderwearStore.com. Oz has been gearing up for weeks to host this fabulous event that promises hot bodies, unique and revealing underwear and a great time for all!

Dozens of bars across the nation will hold similar contests and determine their winners who receive prizes; including

MensUnderwearStore.com gifts. First place winners, including one lucky local guy, move on to the national winner's circle. All local winners get their shot at fame and fortune in an on-line vote at MensUnderwearStore.com. Then the grand prize winner will be flown to an on-location, professional photo shoot and receive a \$1,000 Grand Prize!

Images from the shoot will be used on MensUnderwearStore.com and in a national advertising campaign that could put your local candidate in the national spotlight!

Aspiring local contestants wishing to interview should contact Tommy Elias at Oz, 504.593.9491.

Amon Ra Fund-raisers Set for April 17 & May 15

New Orleans - The Krewe of Amon Ra announces its two upcoming fund-raisers. The first will take place on Sun. April 17 at the Moulin Rouge starting at 2pm-6pm which is the krewe's annual Sister Sunday Social hosted by Lauren Brown. The event will feature a spaghetti dinner, show, and a 50-50 raffle. Moulin Rouge is located at 940 Elysian Fields.

The second fundraiser, a crawfish boil, will be held on Sun., May 15th at the Lions Inn

located at 2517 Chartres from 3pm-7pm. The tickets will be \$20.

Tickets for these functions can be purchased from any krewe member or online at www.kreweofamonra.org.

Pride 2005 Hosts Great & Powerful Oz Auction April 17

New Orleans - Pride New Orleans is proud to announce its next big fund-raiser, *The Great & Powerful Oz Auction* on Sun., April 17, 8-10pm at Oz, 800 Bourbon St.

Hosted by Bianca Del Rio and Blanche Debris this evening will be highlighted by entertainment, live and silent auctions, door prizes and a "Whizard" Costume Contest (prize will be awarded for the best dressed patron). So come friends of "DORTHY" and show your true colors by supporting Pride New Orleans.

Mark your calendar for the next business meeting of the organization on Thurs., April 21, 7pm. at The Friendly Bar, 2301 Chartres Street.

Gay Catholic Community Reflects on Legacy of John Paul II; Leaders Look Forward to More Open, Inclusive Church

With the passing of Pope John Paul II, the World must begin to account for the legacy of an important and influential figure of the 20th Century. John Paul II brought a new day of hope for many, by his advocacy for the poor and for developing nations, for peace, and for human rights. His pontificate, however, frequently left lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Catholics bereft of hope, and still waiting for the bright day of their full inclusion in the Church. The following are quotes from three leading American Catholic voices for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender equality on the legacy of John Paul II, and their hopes for the future of the Roman Catholic Church.

"The death of the Pope provides a golden opportunity for the Catholic Church to rejoice in his geopolitical accomplishments and take up where he left off in the achievement of justice among Catholics. Women expect the same freedom of choice Pope John Paul II urged for Cubans. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people deserve the same respect and freedom he championed for those who lived under Communism. Let that be his legacy."

--Mary E. Hunt, PhD, Co-director, WATER Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual
"Pope John Paul II was a leader of deep piety and strong convictions. His moral leadership was heeded not only by Catholics, but by politicians, philosophers, and religious leaders throughout the world."

He was a man whose ideas were deeply formed by coming of age in his native Poland, occupied first by the Nazis, and then by the Communists. These experiences of oppression inspired his deep concern for social justice. He will be remembered for his strong voice on human rights and dignity.

Unfortunately, his record on gay/lesbian issues is not as admirable. His 26-year pontificate was marked by an end to dialogue on many theological issues, including homosexuality. He closed the windows of renewal that were opened by Pope John XXIII and the Second Vatican Council...

We pray for the repose of his soul, and we pray that the Holy Spirit will provide our Church with a leader who shares Pope John Paul II's strong voice and moral courage, but who will provide us with a Church that is more open to dialogue, reconciliation, and gay/lesbian equality. Lesbian/gay Catholics and their families need a leader who offers a healing hand after John Paul's pontificate which often caused them so much pain."

--Francis DeBernardo, Executive Director, New Ways Ministry

"While we join millions around the world in

[continued on Main-18]

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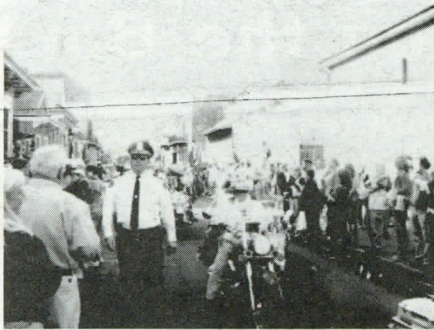
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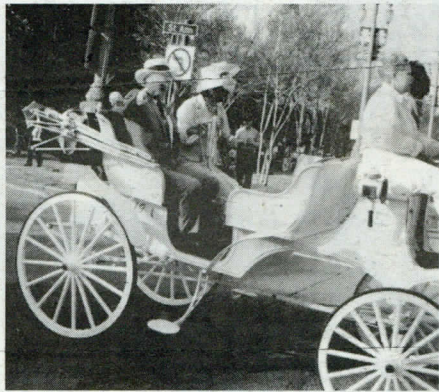
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Tom Conners & Bob Boler



The Corner Pocket



Cavaliers Mororcycle Club



Metropolitan Community Church of Greater New Orleans



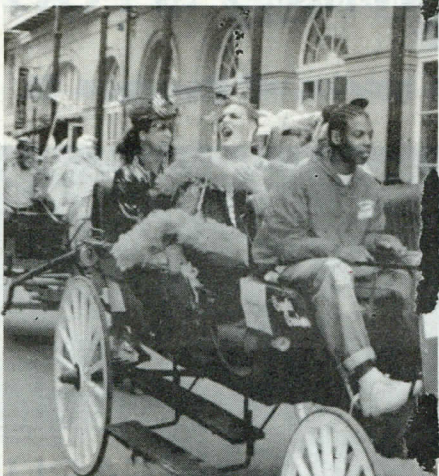
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NO/AIDS Task Force



Honorary Easter Bunny Wally Sherwood & Kinky-Winky Lewis Routh



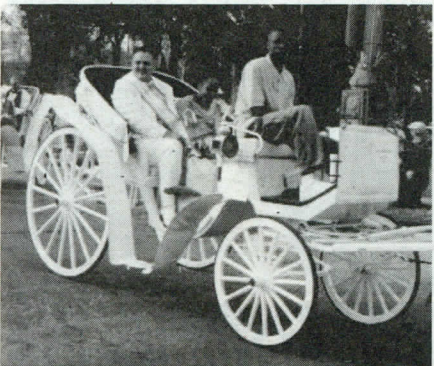
Todd Blauvelt & Company



Queen Fashions



New Birth Brass Band



Easter Grand Marshal VI James Swire



Salamander & Company



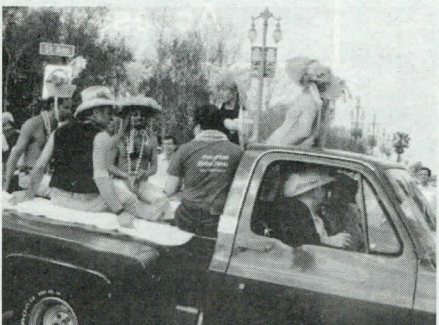
COPS 8



DJ of the Year Tim Pfleuger & Vickie Vynes



Easter Grand Marshal VI Lisa Beaumann



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Starlight By The Park



Gay Easter Parade Board of Directors



6TH OFFICIAL NEW ORLEANS GAY EASTER PARADE ~ NEW ORLEANS ...PHOTOS: ZACH CARDLE, CORNER POCKET, PAUL DAVIS, PHYLLIS DENMARK, CHRIS HALL, RIP NAQUIN-DELAINE, STARLIGHT



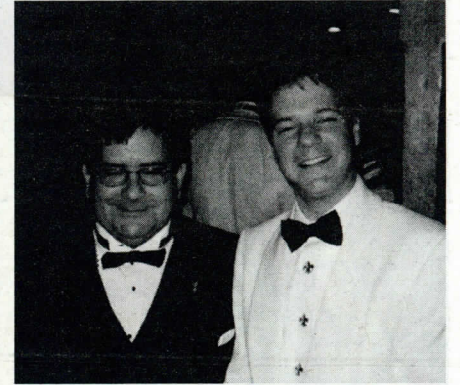
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Whiz Magazine



Kinky-Winky Lewis Routh & Marlin Hainfield/Pre-GEP Party/Starlight



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Mickey Nolan Salon



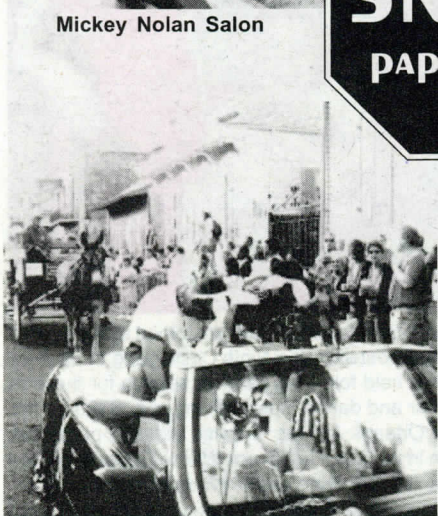
Golden Lantern



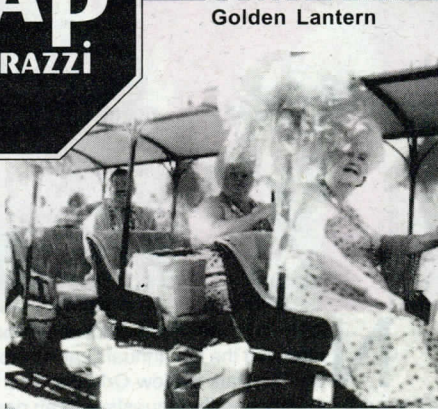
Phyllis Denmark, Todd Blauvelt & Ursuline Burgundy/Pre-GEP Party/Starlight



Gay Easter Parade Board of Directors Tittie Toulouse & Electra City/Pre-GEP Party/Starlight



Larry St. John & Company



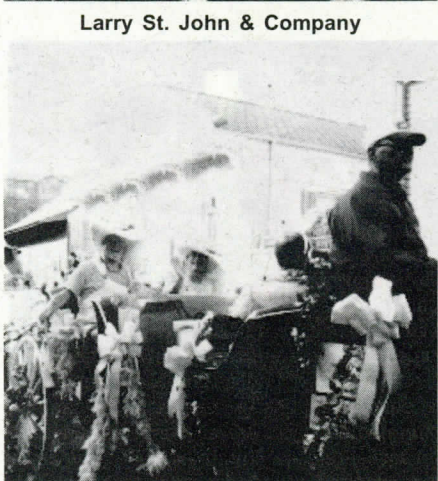
Krewe of Armeinius



Queen & King Amon Ra XL Ali Sebastian & Randall Brown w/Mom Beverly & Opal Masters/Pre-GEP Party/Starlight



Phyllis Denmark, Miss Starlight Mercedes Ellis Loreal & Miss Golden Lantern Sasha Kennedy/Pre-GEP Party/Starlight



Timm Holt & Company



Miss Queen Fashions Tami Tarmac & Company



Salamander & John/Pre-GEP Party/Starlight



Daffodil & Marigold (Armeinius Capt. Charles Turberville & Charles Rector/Pre-GEP Party/Starlight



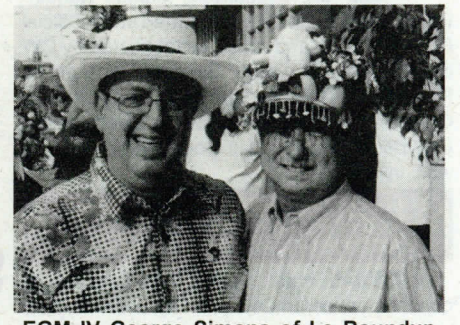
Amber Nicole Welch, Bianca Del Rio & EGM III Teryl-Lynn Foxx/Oz New Orleans



Amon Ra's Miss America & Hooker Queen Delta Louise Carter & Company



Vickie Vynes & Raven Kennedy/Pre-GEP Party/Starlight



EGM IV George Simons of Le Roundup & Double Play/4 Seasons' Chuck Turner/Pre-GEP Party/Starlight

CELEBRAZZI



Gay Easter Parade board members Tittie Toulouse and Electra City flank Easter Grand Marshal VI James Swire at the Official Post-GEP Party and buffet presented at Queen's Head Pub, above Good Friends Bar, in New Orleans.

Co-Easter Grand Marshal VI James Swire is joined by friend Aika Mongi as he led the 6th annual Official Gay Easter Parade (GEP), boasting 15-20,000 spectators, through the streets of the French Quarter on Easter Sunday in New Orleans.



Lisa Beaumann is joined by partner Marcus Martinez as she led the 6th annual Official Gay Easter Parade, which had over 225 participants, as Co-Easter Grand Marshal VI, through the streets of the French Quarter. The parade minus expenses raised over \$7,000 for Food For Friends. Visit GayEasterParade.COM for more info.



Gay Easter Parade board members and Easter Grand Marshals I and IV, respectively, Marsha Naquin-Delain and Electra City, celebrated at the Official Pre-GEP Party and lavish buffet hosted by CW Stambaugh and Javier Sandoval at their N. Rampart St. Club, Starlight By The Park, in New Orleans. And a special thanks to Steve Patrick, Gay Easter Parade Day Coordinator. His help was invaluable.

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[Editor's Note: Submit your celebration, commitment ceremony, birthday, event, royalty presentation, etc. in short paragraph text format along with a photo in jpg or tiff format to info@ambushmag.com.]



The Pot Heads are joined by Coffee, Friends and's... Carl Meyer and Bunny Hop coordinator, Tinky-Winky (Lewis Routh), as they accept the "Best of the Best" bonnet award for the 3rd Annual Marigny Bunny Hop presented by Meyer at Cowpokes in New Orleans.



The Krewe of Amon Ra presented PFLAG New Orleans with a \$1,000 scholarship raised during the krewe's 44th bal masque at 4 Seasons in Metairie, Louisiana. Photo: Amon Ra Pres. Jay Cooper, PFLAG's VP & Treas. John Creasy & Kathy Banko; and Amon Ra's King XL Randall Brown, Special Lt. Gary Delaune, Ball Capt. Tip Varnadore & Queen XL Ricky Callais.



Starlight By The Park's bar barons CW Stambaugh and Javier Sandoval flank the first and newly crowned Miss Starlight, Mercedes Ellis Loreal, following stiff competition in New Orleans.



Diva wrestlers Phyllis Denmark, Varla Jean Merman and Savanna DeLorean are joined by emcee Bianca Del Rio for the 2nd annual Celebrity Lube Wrestling benefit hosted by Cowpokes in New Orleans which raised \$1,872 for Belle Reve.



The staff of Bywater Bar.B.Que/Lorenzo's is to be congratulated for raising over \$4,500 for the 4th annual Buzzy's Easter Brunch hosted by the popular Bywater eatery benefiting Buzzy's Boys & Girls in New Orleans on Easter Sunday. Photo: (front) Wayne & owner Mike Murray; (rear) Tom, Patrick, Maggie, Richy & Lorna.



Newly crowned Crack Whores VI Marsha & Rip Naquin-Delain are joined by many who attended the 6th annual Crack Whore Ball hosted by the Ninth Circle gang at Starlight By The Park in New Orleans. The ball is held following carnival season for those in the service industry and their guests with an open bar and dance music raising over \$300 for the Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, New Orleans Affiliate. Service industry personnel usually work for carnival and do not have time to join in the fun. Past Crack Whore Queens include I Unknown, II Kabrina Watson, III Genevieve, IV Janice Goodbee and V Wade Burnham. Photo: (front) Bryan, Shelly Pearl, Josh & Kay; (rear) Deedee, Crack Whores VI Marsha & Rip, Normand & French Quarter Annie.



New Orleans own Miss Gay America Raquel Chevallier joins Miss Gay New Orleans America '05 Victoria Lynn Denmark, newly crowned Miss Gay New Orleans America '06 Mercedes Ellis Loreal, 1st Alternate Legacy Lopez, emcee Bianca Del Rio and Miss Gay Louisiana America Dominique DeLorean for the 10th annual Miss Gay New Orleans America pageant hosted by Show Club of the Year, Oz, in New Orleans.

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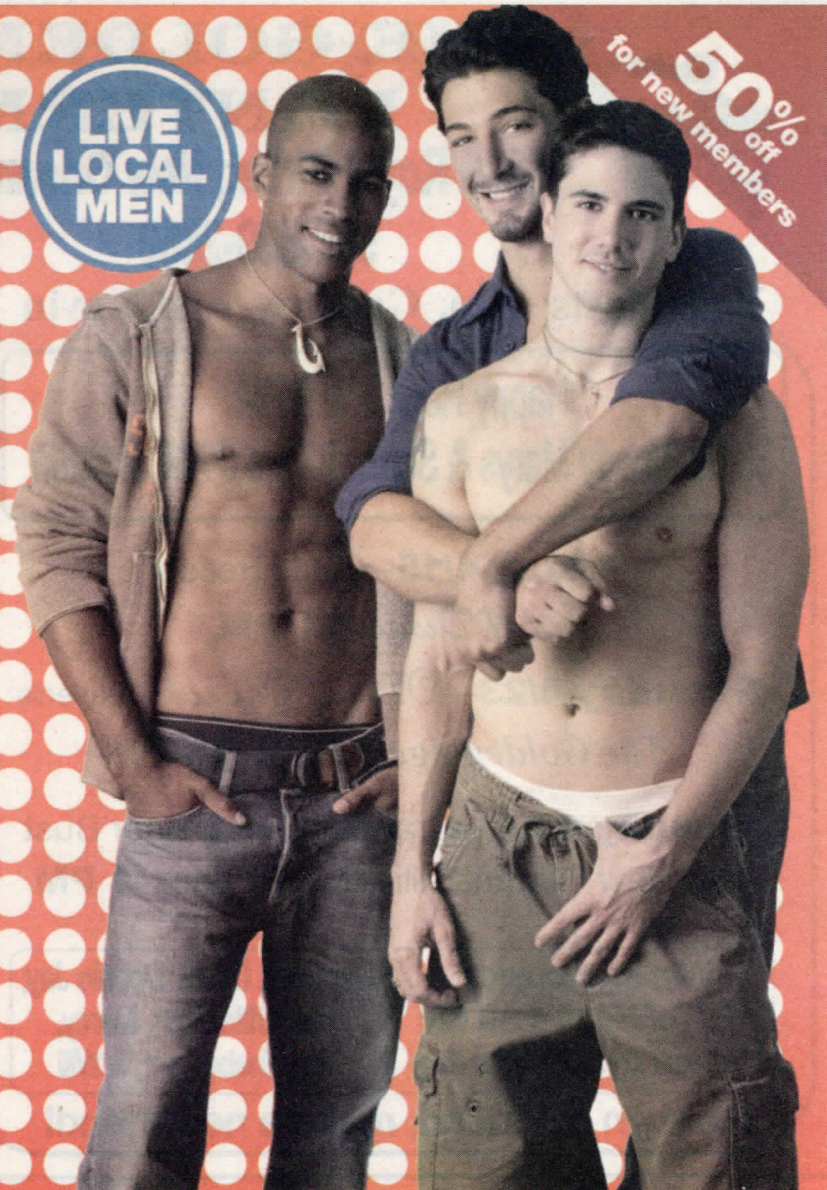
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what's hot ...from Main-12

earnest prayer for the Pope's eternal salvation and the future of our Church, we remember that this papacy has used harsh and derogatory language such as 'objectively disordered and intrinsically evil' to describe gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people.

"This Pope led the Church in teaching damaging misrepresentations about the health and holiness of our loving relationships - calling them part of an 'ideology of evil' - and about the raising of our children while covering up the real abuse of children and related abuse of power by some of John Paul II's brother bishops and priests. He also misused his authority to stop fellow cardinals and bishops from speaking for the obvious moral good of using condoms in the prevention of the spread of HIV.

"We are saddened that John Paul II has left this life without having used his personal faith, intellect and authority to learn how God is speaking through GLBT people to spread the Gospel.

"The Church's teachings on sexuality and personal responsibility are arrested in a juvenile stage. They show neither respect for the moral development of individuals nor for God's work in each of us in the development of our consciences and spiritual lives...In this regard, we believe (Vatican leaders) must fully inform their consciences as moral law requires by seeking to understand the spiritual lives of GLBT Catholics, by considering the ongoing works of theologians and social science researchers knowledgeable about GLBT issues and relationships, and by exploring the genuine Gospel call of Jesus Christ to love and inclusion."

-Sam Sinnett, President, Dignity USA
Dr. Mary E. Hunt, Sam Sinnett, and Francis DeBernardo are members of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Religious Leadership Roundtable.

For more information on these organizations, including their complete statements on the passing of the Pope, please see:

www.dignityusa.org, <http://mysite.verizon.net/~vze43yrc/> and www.his.com/~mhunt/

First convened in 1998, the National Religious Leadership Roundtable of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is an interfaith collaboration of more than forty denominations and faith-related organizations. The Roundtable seeks to reframe the public religious dialogue on issues involving the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community by amplifying the voices of LGBT-affirming people of faith, countering religious voices of bigotry and intolerance, and working to advance full equality for

all.

Founded in 1973, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Foundation (the Task Force) was the first national lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights and advocacy organization and remains the movement's leading voice for freedom, justice, and equality. "We work to build the grassroots political strength of our community by training state and local activists and leaders, working to strengthen the infrastructure of state and local allies, and organizing broad-based campaigns to build public support for complete equality for LGBT people. Our Policy Institute, the community's

premiere think tank, provides research and policy analysis to support the struggle for complete equality. As part of a broader social justice movement, we work to create a world that respects and makes visible the diversity of human expression and identity where all people may fully participate in society. Headquartered in Washington, DC, we also have offices in New York City, Los Angeles, Cambridge, and Miami. The Task Force is a 501(c)(3) corporation incorporated in Washington, DC. Contributions to the Task Force are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law."



Email: Go2hellk@Aol.com Kevin M. Butler

THE AUSTIN TAVERN GUILD
PRESENTS

MAY 1ST, 2005
HIPPIE HOLLOW

LOVES IT...

SPLASH DAY

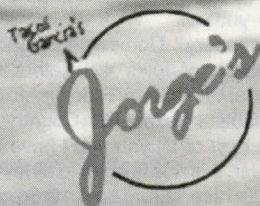
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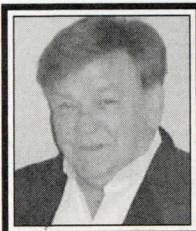
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STEERS & QUEERS/AUSTIN

by Marc Alexander
 E-mail: Ambushtxmarc@aol.com, 512.371.3165

There I sat waiting patiently as the musicians onstage warmed up their instruments and then the band came together playing the opening notes of **What You Came Here For** - Michael Clay entered from backstage singing the lyrics and the audience went up as I began to shout, "I knew it, I knew it!" Suddenly, I awoke staring at my computer monitor ...damn, it was only a dream...

WRONG! come 6pm, Sat., April 16 those fine folks at Zach Scott will bring Michael Clay to the Arena Stage LIVE! IN CONCERT! for one night only and you need to join me to cheer him on, the man can SING! And yes, the man is a hottie but just because I think he has talent and all that stuff that doesn't mean I want to get in his pants, the man can sing ...think about it, Zach Scott is all about quality entertainment and booking Michael Clay with a full band means they believe the man has talent that merits showcasing, so get busy and get your tickets cause afterwards we are all heading to RAIN on 4th Street for the after concert party!!! I've already reserved my bar stool and ordered my favorite beverage ...promised the Dave's I would be a sweet queen if they would reserve me a bar stool, just didn't tell either of them how long I would be sweet ...okay, get online and type www.zachscott.com.

One thing for certain is Austin's 6th Annual International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Service in Republic Park at 4th and Guadalupe Streets come Sunday, May 15, 2005 ...from 8-9pm, community speakers, music, poems, remembrances and prayers will be offered by those in attendance

...mark your calendars, bring your candles, donations and loved ones, show that you still care, that you remember ...for more detailed info click on www.candlelightmemorial.org.

With Mother's Day right around the corner you should know the U.S. Postal Service has released a new "Fund the Cure" stamp benefiting breast cancer research. The stamp was designed by Ethel Kessler of Bethesda, Maryland and instead of the normal 37 cents rate the cost is 40 cents with the extra three cents going to breast cancer research ...okay, do the math, a book of stamps runs \$7.40 and with the extra three pennies it will run \$8 which means sixty cents per book sold goes to research ...if all the printed stamps are sold that means an influx of \$35,000,000 for this vital research, and it isn't just about the money, it is a statement that you still care about your mothers, sisters and friends...BUY!

Had an e-mail from Margie at the Capital City Comedy Club about all the "in your face" comedy at the club ...Doug Stanhope from **Comedy Central** is there this weekend (04/14-16) doing his **The Man Show** gig and the ever constantly controversial Carlos Mencia returns to their stage April 21-24 ...as if that weren't enough the club is doing their 20th Annual Funniest Person In Austin contest every Monday through May 9 ...check it out, www.capcitycomedy.com.

Ran into Celicity Cash who is Austin's Candidate for Miss TGRA 2006 the other night at Chain Drive ...I had

been looking for her cause I knew she was behind the Austin Lonestars Rugby Football Club players calendar and I wanted a copy ...Celicity told me to contact Mr. June who just happens to be the club prez and that the calendars are at a reduced rate as there are just a few left ...hey, I may not know jack about sports but I know a hottie when I see one and that calendar has some hotties! E-mail Mr. June at president@lonestarsrugby.org and order your calendar, go on now, the money benefits the club ...back to Celicity who went on to tell me this weekend (04/15/16) Austin will host the TGRA State meeting with the Kickoff at Sidekicks at 8pm on the 15th... that's Friday, at 9pm. **Sheer Dallas**, a gay reality show shot at the Fort Worth Rodeo will be shown and then those two messy divas Alix Courtne and Gigi LaRouge will host **Rodeo Meets Disco** featuring entertainers from all over Texas ...come Saturday (04/16) the TGRA State Dance Competition practice sessions begin at 2pm at the Rainbow Cattle Company with registration at 6pm ...competition begins at 7pm ...you do not have to be a TGRA member to compete ...there are competition levels from beginner to professional so get your boots on and go show those rodeo folk what you got ...and then she went right on talking, the queen is a fountain of information about TGRA! I'll leave the details to Frank Thomas who writes our **Lone Star Sports** feature, but the Austin chapter of TGRA has put together the Capital City Tee Off to be held at the Colovista Country Club in May and you thought they only wore boots! Frank will be telling you all about it in coming issues of **AMBUSH**...

Call from the Widow Modine, she was so excited to tell me that her dear friend Kindell Badgley - yeah, like she is his only bud on the planet - anyway, Kindell is recovering from liver transplant surgery and doing very well ...he should be up and about in the very near future ...the stories that man could tell from the early 80s during the days of Dirty Sally's and the Crossing down on Red

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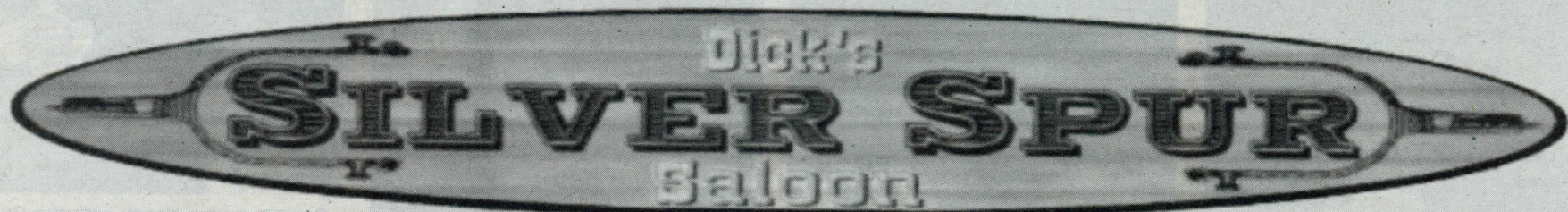
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River ...my first visit to Dirty Sally's I walked up to the bar and Kindell looked at me and groaned, "You look like trouble, why don't you go on back where you came from..." I've been giving him grief ever since and now that he has a new liver ...well, I still have a bit of grief to give him, with much love and appreciation for all his support over the years ...hurry Kindell, **Ambush** wants to play with you...

Into scenery? Come April 30 and May 1 a bunch of folks will gather for the annual Hill Country Ride for AIDS ...115 miles of beautiful Texas Hill Country awaits cyclists and best of all you don't have to be a marathon rider, this ride is open to all levels ..."It is a RIDE, not a race." From Austin to Spicewood, bicycle riders will pedal for dollars for AIDS. For those of you who can not participate in the actual ride event there are other ways you can show your support. Head over to the Bicycle Sport Shop at 517 South Lamar and purchase one of the 2005 edition jerseys on sale for a limited time ...why not start your own team or even a pledge team ...you know, gather a team of people and make a pledge of some sort ...actually, the organizers have even better

[continued on Expose-8]



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Bebe Hughes as Adrian with Robert



The Billard Ladies - Simone, Bebe, Diva & Gigi



Rumors owner Nancy with the Gypsy Cowgirls



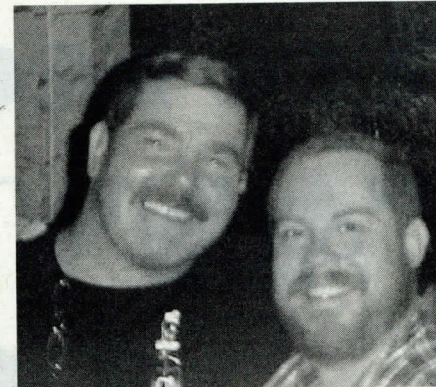
Equality for Gay Rights March on the Capitol



Ben & Joe in a unique duet at Daddy Knows Best!

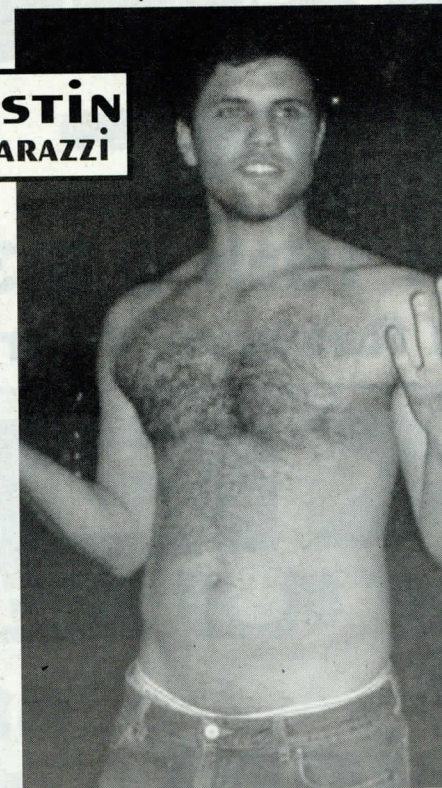


The Central Texas boys of Leather pose for Ambush

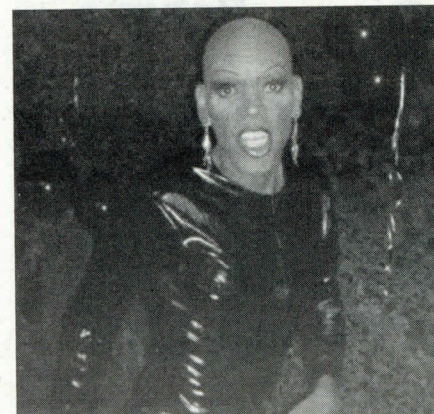


Kenny & Rusty doing the club scene.

AUSTIN PAPARAZZI



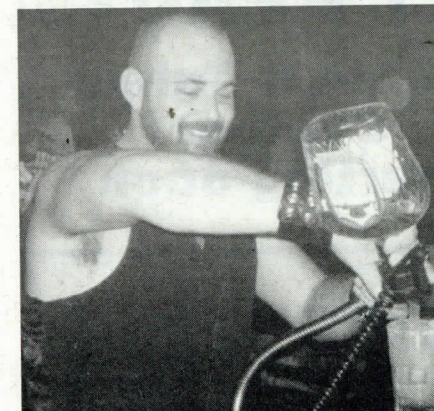
Going once, going twice, he put Daddy Knows Best to \$565.



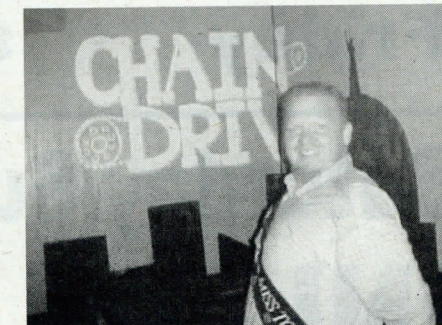
"It's Chain Drive honey!" said the bald headed Diva Topaz



Chain Drive bartender Al poses for Ambush



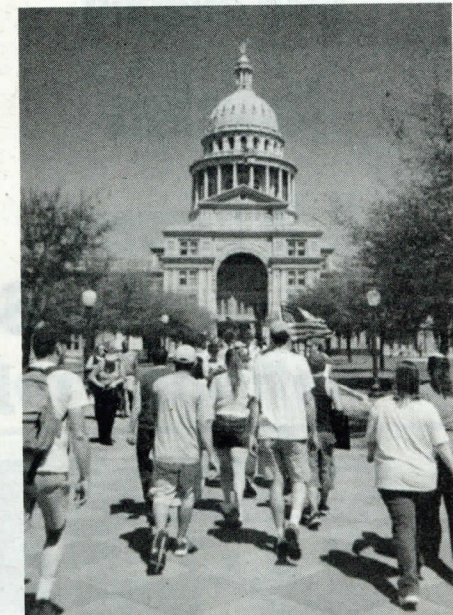
Chain Drive bartender Shannon has added another Bear title to his resume



Miss TGRA 2006 Celicity Cash is everywhere!



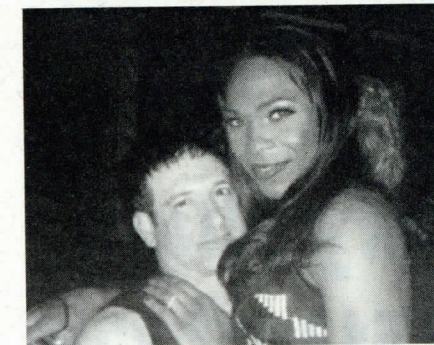
Paula, Garry & David at Rumors in Temple



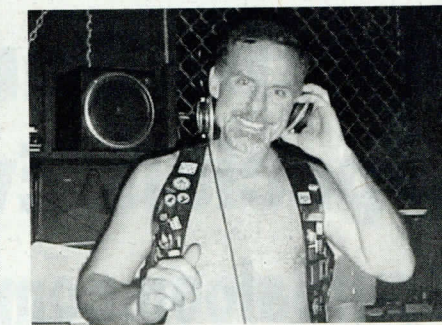
Marchers gather on the Capitol steps for the rally



Bunny's at Gospelfest 2005 at Oilcan Harry's



Jake snuggles up to Miss RCC 2005 Simone Riviera



Chain Drive DJ Todd



Paula & Mercy strike a pose for Ambush



Ofeelya & Ima hiding from Modine at Oilcan's

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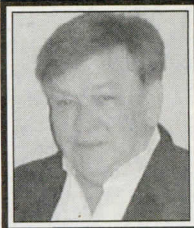
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LEISURE & TRAVEL

by Marc Alexander, Austin, TX
E-mail: Ambushtxmarc@aol.com, 512.371.3165

You Can Get There From Here... The Austin Tavern Guild Invites You To SPLASH!

Sister called... "I suppose you're going to make a big do about the first Sunday in May," she whined. "Do ya think?" I responded in my most queenly tone. "Is it really necessary to tell 'em about that mess at Hippie Hollow?" she asked. "Like I'll be the first and only queer to write about a nude beach in Texas," I snapped. "You know if it weren't for all those naked breeders the law woulda shut that beach down long ago," snarled Sister, to which I responded, "Thank God for nudist!" That was Sister's cue to hang up on me whilst I sat at my desk recalling younger, thinner years of trekking up and down the trails along the lakefront enroute to the gay section of Hippie Hollow iso a place to work on my 100% tan for summer...hey, I wasn't always short, fat and old - get a clue my pretties, one day you too will be classified as an old troll by some young thing, comes with the queer label...

Yes, there is a clothing optional section of beach in Texas, more specifically in Travis County. Warning Will Queer, Warning! The key word here is "section" - there is only ONE section of beachfront at ONE particular lake where Texas law permits clothing as an option! Step outside those boundaries and law enforcement types will haul you before a real judge presiding over a real court, we ain't talkin' **Judge Judy** here dearies! Do not, I repeat do not cavort about in the bushes - that ain't why Ladybird planted all that foliage...there are rangers throughout the area who, although very nice folks, will arrest you if you break Texas law...

One section of the shoreline of Lake Travis is best known as the only nude beach in the State of Texas...Hippie Hollow at 7000 Comanche Trail (see site map) where you will find nude sunbathers on the limestone rock ledges near the water's edge...you can spread a beach towel or that lawn chair you toted along the trail...there are numerous inlets or cove like areas along the trail but if you are iso of the "gay section" you have to trek to the end of the trail. Rafts, boats, barges, etc., dot the lakefront area.

Not too many moons ago the park upgraded the restrooms along the trail and all are wheelchair accessible. Recently a commercial vendor was granted a permit to provide a mobile snack service in the parking area which is located close to the main entrance to the trail at the top of the steps leading down to the lakeside trail itself. Take note, you have to wear clothes in the entrance and parking areas, once you are on the trail then you can do your strip thing...oh yeah, you will have to pay a "day-use fee" to enter the parking area, the funds help cover the cost of maintaining the amenities of the park which is a service to the community and also provides a nice profit for Travis County. A day pass also permits you to visit any other Travis County Park on the same day. Your pass is good from 9am until 9pm during the spring/summer season but come cooler temps they close at 7:30pm. There is no overnight camping at Hippie Hollow. Do not take glass containers, pets and please do not start a fire in the park, you've no concept of how bitter we get when folks start burning our trees...

Although quite large the parking area at the entrance to Hippie Hollow can not contain all the vehicles on Splash! Day but there is quite a bit of parking at the top of the hill leading down to the lakefront. You can park there and skip on down Comanche Trail to the entrance of the park or you can catch the Shuttle Service on one of it's rounds...Comanche Trail be fine going down but coming back up ain't pretty, even the gym rats find it daunting after a day of cavorting on the beach...be smart, catch the shuttle back to the parking area and save yourself from the heat...

It is etched in stone, Splash! or First Splash! is the first Sunday in May...then come Labor Day Weekend in September we do it all again but we call it Last Splash!...you can bet Austin throws out the welcome mat for our out-of-town guests...The Austin Tavern Guild members sponsor Splash! events including a beer

barge which is moored at Hippie Hollow at noon on Splash Day with free beer for those in attendance...chill...you need a wristband and they are FREE! You can get one at any ATG member bar on Friday or Saturday cause it be the only way you gonna get a free beer on the barge...whilst you be sucking up your free beer you need to be aware those rocky ledges I warned you about can be "steep and slippery" - well, yes, steep and slippery can be fun but not when you are bouncing down the hillside in a naked state...somebody has to play the bitch and as it seems to be my lot in life I am going to remind you once again, it don't matter how pretty or how big it is, if you are on the shores of the lake don't play with it, get a phone number, arrange a meeting and do your thing, hell, do it twice for me but please do not do it in the bushes cause I ain't gonna bail you out of jail, now be a sweet queen and go have some FUN...

From downtown take MOPAC (Loop 1) to



Exit 2222 and head West then take a left on Hwy 620 and go one (1) mile South to Comanche Trail, turn right on Comanche Trail, if you don't see the Oasis Restaurant on your left you be on the wrong road...anyway, there are signs posted along the road directing you to McGregor Park (Hippie Hollow)...when you get to the entrance of the park, it's on your left, whip out your ten bucks to pay the attendant who will give you a pass to place on the dashboard or window of your car, find a parking place and head for the trail...just look for the water and you'll find the trail...

If you are jetting in, your plane will land at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport or ABIA as locals call it...all the major carriers serve ABIA with 250 plus flights daily...if you are driving, you'll discover Austin is fairly easy to navigate, be smart, do the Mapquest thingie...Austin's Capital Metro network provides great bus transportation and in the downtown area you can jump on a Dillo free of charge - just ask the driver, they'll steer you in the right direction, oh, Dillo's look like old fashioned trolley cars...Austin has several taxi services, like American Yellow Checker Cab Co. at 472.1111 or Roy's Taxi at 482.0000 that are reasonable and dependable...if you are driving please pay attention where you park your car, illegal parking in the downtown area is not tolerated, you

will be towed and that my dears can be quite expensive...

Need a place to stay...Austin has a vast array of hotels, motels, bed and breakfast places that are unique...The historical Driskill Hotel is at the corner of 6th and Brazos Street downtown...built in 1886 by Colonel Jesse Driskill, it is a longtime favorite of politicians, movie and theatre folk or anyone who enjoys the elegance of the 1800s...never know who you'll run into in the lobby...call 1.800.735.2478 or 512.474.5911 for reservations and information...there is a new Extended Stay America at 600 Guadalupe Street within walking distance of bars and restaurants in the 4th/5th/6th Street area...give them a call at 1.800.EXT-STAY...for those of you into the bed and breakfast scene you should try Summit House within minutes of downtown Austin...gay owned and operated with very reasonable rates, give 'em a call at 512.445.5034...or you can book your accommodations at www.GayAustin.NET.

When you get to town and see all the bat stuff don't get paranoid...it's all about the Congress Avenue Bridge which is home to one of the largest urban bat colonies in North America...the sun came up and this silly bat had stayed out too late, frantic, it noticed a bridge and flew underneath, had to be a queer bat, it immediately set up housekeeping and soon about a million other bats moved into the neighborhood and now people love to watch as the bats make their grand exit each evening from beneath the bridge iso of their nightly meal, the Mexican free-tail bats are a must see on a summer evening...Congress Avenue kinda deadends right at the steps of the state capitol building which offers daily tours...then there is the LBJ Library and Museum at 2313 Red River Street that remains the only FREE Presidential Library in the country...but Splash! isn't about museums and the like, it's all about one word - PARTY! and we have several great bars who are members of the Tavern Guild offering you loads of good times...

'Bout Time at 9601 North I35 serves a mixed gay and lesbian crowd in a tavern style atmosphere - very relaxed, very friendly with loads of Sportsqueers playing on the sand volleyball courts...like any tavern there are the usual pool tables, dart boards, video games, large screen tv for sports and an occasional show on a Saturday night...it's one of my personal favorites, be sure and say hello to Marshall, Peter, Darrin and all the gang...512.832.5339

Charlie's at 1301 Lavaca Street, right behind the Capitol has a mix of all ages, sizes and shapes...dance floor, great drag shows, an outdoor patio for beer busts and cookouts...the Manwatch Dancers perform Thursday through Sunday with Monday being wet underwear contest night and a strip off contest on Tuesdays and if you are hungry they have the best Steak Night in Austin, give 'em a call at 512.474.6481...

Oilcan Harry's is located in the Warehouse District with a quiet bar on the side plus a dance floor and a New Orleans style patio in back...friendly staff going all out to make you feel welcome and some of the hottest music in Austin...dancers, hot, hot men and loads of fun, check 'em out at 211 West 4th Street, 512.320.8823...

Rainbow Cattle Company or RCC as locals say is a huge country and western bar at 305 West 5th Street with a raised dance floor and lots of cowboys boot scootin' to the latest dance tunes...if you are into Wrangler butts or just into all things western RCC is the place for you...the bar has undergone a recent renovation and is better than ever...belly up to the bar



and tell 'em **Ambush** sent you, well of course they'll charge you the usual price for a cocktail but you might get a grin out of one of 'em...512.472.5288...

Hungry? In the mood for Mexican then head for 2203 Hancock Drive off Burnet Road where you'll find Taco Garcia's Jorge's and their famous beer-simmered meats and some of the best margaritas to ever cross your tastebuds! Trust, the food at Jorge's is lish and the servings are generous but the cost is very reasonable. There is a great wait staff happy to serve you from their excellent menu...check 'em out...call 512.454.1980...

Near the center of downtown at the corner of 6th Street and Rio Grande sits an Austin institution - Katz's Deli, will thrill your senses...owner Marc Katz may not be the Mayor of Austin but he certainly is the Pastrami King! This New York style deli has an awesome menu...I've tried just about everything over the years and have yet to be disappointed...go prepared to eat cause the portions are most definitely New York deli style...layers of meat on their sandwiches and their pot roast is just sinful...it don't matter, one visit to Katz's and you'll come out the door humming something from **Fiddler on the Roof**...they never, ever Klose, at Katz's it's 24/7/365 and it is truly an experience to treasure...

There is so much more to the Capital City - damn phone!...sorry about that, it was Sister, she was going through some old photos of her younger days at Hippie Hollow and now the old hypocrite wants to know if I have any pull with ATG, she wants an invitation to ride on their party barge on Splash! Day, now where the hell did I put David Green's cell number...

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 21 May 2005



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SCHEDULE

Registration begins at 8:00am and Shotgun start at 9:00am
 At the Colovista Golf Course in Bastrop Texas

CANCELLATION

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 We appreciate your contribution to TGRA



Please register with the people with which you wish to be paired

PLAYER 1

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Address _____

The tournament chairs will group less than four registrants.
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 question contact Mark P Miller @ Necwby@aol.com or call 512-581-7950.

Deadline May 6, 2005



LONE STAR SPORTS

by Frank Thomas, Jr., Austin, TX
E-mail: frankthomas@gmail.com

Ever wonder what a bowling ball tastes like? Well, if you live in central Texas, here's your chance to find out.

The Austin Gamblers bowling league meets weekly on Tuesday nights at the Dart Bowl. Nearly one hundred men and women, ranging in ages from early 20s to 70s, socialize and dine while waiting for practice to begin. Friends are everywhere as the league occupies 26 of Dart Bowl's 32 lanes. You can tell the ten-minute practice session has begun when the quiet lanes are suddenly filled with the bangs of bowling balls and falling pins.

The Austin Gamblers have bowled for at least fifteen years now, according to league secretary Brian Hamburg. There are 26 teams playing in four divisions. Teams of four players bowl against each other in a three-game series; all scores are adjusted by a handicap.

The regular season lasts 32 weeks in the fall and spring. The Gamblers also run a three-month summer league. Registration costs \$16, and the weekly fee to play is \$13, excluding your shoes. League players make up some of this cost by getting discounted games during the rest of the week. Some teams have invested a little more in the league, sporting matching embroidered shirts or coordinated bowling balls.

Twelve teams will advance to a single elimination playoff. Prize money varies by the number of entries, but last year's first place prize exceeded \$1,600. In addition, in the last four years, the Gamblers have raised over \$10,000 for AIDS Services of Austin, OutYouth Austin, and the David Powell Clinic.

One of the matches pits division leaders Triple X against the Hair Pins. A couple of Hair Pins are missing this night, and while they have

the option of using substitutes, the Hair Pins just settle for the missing players' averages less ten pins.

Stuart Campbell is a realtor who has bowled since he was five years old, but his first league experience is bowling with the Hair Pins. While he wishes play would be a little slower so there would be more time for socializing, he enjoys the competition and the friendship that the league provides.

Stuart's teammate, Marsha Case, was recruited to the Hair Pins by a coworker. This is her first regular bowling experience in fifteen years and she loves it. "It's a challenge for me just to break a hundred," Marsha said, but it doesn't discourage her from laughing, and cheering her teammate and opponents for good shots. "Everyone's really nice here," Marsha says. Not only did she have fun, but Marsha also bowled a new personal best of 107 that night.

Triple X member Scott Stebleton works for the University of Texas; bowling ran in his family, so it was natural for him to take up the game. This is his second season in the league; he has the high average on his team and finished third in the summer. "The best thing about the league is that it's a fun thing to do

where I don't have to worry about my sexuality being an issue."

The Hair Pins started with a 287-pin lead thanks to the handicap, but that didn't last long. Triple X, led by Scott Stebleton's 600 series, bowled six games over 200 and easily beat the Hair Pins 7-0.

For more information on playing with the Gamblers, you can e-mail Brian Hamburg at txgameshowfan@austin.rr.com. You can learn more about gay and lesbian bowling opportunities by visiting the International Gay Bowling Organization at www.igbo.org.

If you are looking for some great live sports action, check out the tennis at the U.S. Men's Clay Court Championships in Houston, April 16-24. Qualifying is on April 16-17 and is free to the public. The main draw begins on April 18. Tickets begin at \$30. Not only can you see some of the world's best players, but you might also catch a glimpse of yours truly working as a line umpire on court. More information is available at www.mensclaycourt.com.

Have a sporting event you'd like to see covered in *Ambush*? E-mail Lone Star Sports at frankthomas@gmail.com. Come on Dallas, San Antonio, Houston - I need to take a road trip!

PENSACOLA & ORLANDO/FLORIDA

Gulf Coast TIDE, Inc. to participate in May 6 & 7 Pensacola Relay For Life

Pensacola, FL - The TIDE continues to sweep through Northwest Florida as the members of Gulf Coast TIDE, Inc. turn their focus to the fight against cancer.

Gulf Coast TIDE, Inc.'s goal is to improve the quality of life for members of the Gulf Coast LGBT community. Therefore, it is not surprising to see them joining in the May 6 & 7 Relay For Life effort at the PJC (Pensacola Junior College) Main Campus in Pensacola as they continue to **Search for the Cure**. (The theme for this year's Relay For Life effort.)

Beginning with a "Survivor Walk" at 5pm on Fri., May 6 and continuing through noon on Sat., May 7, the organization will join with thousands of Gulf Coast residents in walking and working to raise money for cancer research.

While cancer is not a "gay disease", thousands in the Gulf Coast LGBT community are touched each year by the disease. In fact, according to the CDC (Center for Disease Control), nearly 1 out of 4 deaths in 2005 will be the result of cancer making it the second leading cause of death in America (behind heart disease).

Gulf Coast TIDE, Inc. Interim President Jon Durre, will be one of the Cancer Survivors participating in the Survivor Walk on Friday evening. "Like most Americans, my family has been touched by cancer, so this cause is near and dear to my heart," Jon Durre said. "I'm happy to say that my mother and I will both be taking part in the Survivor Walk, thanks to advances made in cancer treatment as a result of efforts like this."

Gulf Coast TIDE, Inc. invites anyone interested in making a donation as well as anyone interested in joining them in this effort to contact their team leader: camdensirmans@gulfcoastTIDE.org or to visit them at their booth (2nd booth north of the main stage).

Gulf Coast TIDE, Inc. is the only organization on the Florida Gulf Coast that exists exclusively for the purpose of providing education, empowerment, and visibility within and beyond the Gulf Coast lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. With it's stated goal: "Together In Diversity & Equality," Gulf Coast TIDE, Inc. is working to build stronger ties between individuals and organizations serving the Gulf Coast LGBT Community - affirming, assisting, and augmenting their efforts - while

at the same time, being actively involved in advocacy efforts to promote acceptance, equality, and diversity - serving Escambia and Santa Rosa counties.

For more information including how you can join Gulf Coast TIDE, Inc., visit their Web site at www.gulfcoastTIDE.org or e-mail info@gulfcoastTIDE.org.

2005 Memorial Day Weekend DJ Line-up Announced

Pensacola, FL - Ten world-class DJs will spin at 11 parties starting Thurs., May 26 for the annual giant Memorial Day Weekend blowout in Pensacola presented by Johnny Chisholm and Oz New Orleans. The DJ line-up and associated parties follow.

TRACY YOUNG - To make it in the cutting edge world of club DJs and re-mixers, one must be versatile, innovative, and adaptable. If you've been keeping up with the global club scene, then chances are that your ears have feasted on the potent blends of Dance, House and Tribal rhythms served up by the hard hitting Miami-based Tracy Young. Additionally, the energetic and wildly creative Young has worked her magic on a repertoire of remixes. As one of a handful of accomplished re-mixers in the world, she has infused her signature style into the Latin rhythms of Enrique Iglesias, Gloria Estefan and Shakira, and has put a fierce dance spin on icons such as Christina Aguilera, Stevie Nicks, Cyndi Lauper and Madonna, administering a musical symphony to the latter's hit **Music** that **Billboard Magazine** called "an emotional masterpiece." ...Spinning at Bounce 1, Friday afternoon at the Hilton, 4pm-8pm.

DAVID KNAPP - A former resident of New York City holding residency at both Roxy and Limelight, David Knapp now calls Atlanta his home. David is busy nearly every weekend at regular gigs in Washington DC, Miami, Toronto, Dallas, New Orleans, San Francisco, Montreal, and Atlanta; to name a few. His international credits include Amsterdam, Mykonos, Sydney, and Costa Rica. In the summer of 2000 David played a tour of Japan. He was also the sole DJ performing for New York City's Gay Pride Pier Dance, before a crowd of 10,000. Although David is mostly recognized for his multi-layered anthemic vocals, you're always sure to get some one-of-a-kind, productions that will blow away the most sophisticated ear. Playing programs that pleases everyone in his audience, David is referred to as, **The People's DJ**. ...Spinning at Spellbound 1, Afterhours Saturday night at The Annex, 3am-9am

steers & queers/austin ...from EX-2

ideas for you, check out their website at www.hillcountryride.org and register ...hurry, times awastin'...

One thing for certain, if it is Monday and you are in the mood for a martini you need to head on downtown to 211 West 4th Street and tell the bartender you want a GIANT martini ...one of Oilcan Harry's bartenders will work his magic and do a special martini just for you ...the Don't Rock the Boat Party kicks off on Wed., April 27 and runs through Splash! on May 1 ...it's a party seven nights a week at OCH, check their display ad in this issue of **AMBUSH** for more about this great entertainment location...

This Saturday (04/16) DeeDee Davis brings her production of **Anything Goes** to the Silver Spur stage ...head

MARY PAPPAS - DJ Mary Pappas will tell you that music has always played an important part in her life. Her first professional job spinning was at the Bullet Club in Tokyo. She played top 40 music to a non-English speaking audience. "I just smiled and faked it." Back in the USA, Mary became the first female jock to take up residency at the Bourbon Pub/Parade. This is where she was introduced to the world of the BOY sound, a love affair that continues to this day. "In some ways I feel like I walk a fine line between the musical worlds of the boys and girls, I mold my collection of music for mass appeal, Progressive house, NRG, Club Anthems and Trance; music that moves the mind and body and soul." ...Spinning at Forbidden 1 & 2, The Girl Parties at Flounder's on the Beach, Saturday and Sunday nights, 9pm-3am.

MANNY LEHMAN - Though known as the **Latin From Manhattan**, this current Los Angeleno resident has taken the Circuit World by storm. Although Manny has been at the turntables off-and-on for more than a decade, it's only recently with the mega-success of such events as the 1999 Palm Springs White Party and Montreal's Black and Blue Recovery Party that Lehman has skyrocketed to DJ stardom. Manny's sound is a high-octane blend of aggressive, soulful, house-infused with distinct Latin/Tribal beats. Perhaps what is so impressive, however, is Manny's incredible consistency as an always "on" DJ, never failing to bring the crowd to mesmerizing intense frenzy and leaving them there; begging for more. His beats are relentless and always filled with surprises. Other circuit events Manny has played include DC's Cherry, Pines 2000, Sundance, Fireball, Halloween in New Orleans, and Philadelphia's Blue Ball. You know you're going to get an evening of energy when Manny Lehman spins. ...Spinning at ABRACADABRA, Sunday night at the Pensacola Civic Center, 10pm-4am.

KIMBERLY S. - As one of Hollywood's rising DJs by night and a 2nd degree black belt

on down to San Jacinto for one of the best shows of the year ...entertainer Sabreena is jetting in from Los Angeles to be a special guest for the show which is a benefit for Project Transitions ...want to reserve a table, then call the bar, 512.457.8010, tell Cecil you know Mona and he'll get you a table...

A special welcome to our newest advertiser AAA News with five locations to serve you ...they have a HUGE selection of GLBT media products for your shopping pleasure ...check out their ad in this issue of **AMBUSH** ...gotta get, am off to do some shopping...

Next issue I'll tell you all about my Texas blitz, yeah, the old queen is hitting the highways of Texas, iso news - okay, so I am going to snoop in other cities, check in next issue for all the dirt...

karate instructor by day, Kimberly S. simply kicks ass. In the daylight hours, she can be found teaching Tae Kwon Do for kids at her martial arts studio on the famed Sunset Strip. But it's after dark that Kimberly shines. A native of Southern California, Kimberly S. moved to Los Angeles in 1988 where she began her DJ career. She has established herself as a cutting edge visionary, mixing deep soulful house, to pulsing tribal beats, to vocal circuit anthems; an experience she regards as deeply spiritual. When needed, Kimberly's repertoire extends to hip-hop, R&B, Disco and Funk. Without skipping a beat, Kimberly has also attracted the attention of some of the record industry's hottest dance music labels and garnered national media exposure. ...Spinning at HURRICANE, Friday night at The Hilton, 10pm-3am.

JAY-R - Jay-R is currently a DJ at Emerald City in Pensacola. His love of music started at an early age. While most other kids his age were playing with toys, at the ripe old age of 4 he received his very first record player. When he was 21, he realized how he would, from that day on, express himself musically. He started practicing his skills, and has already accomplished so much in a short time! In the last 9 months since he has been DJing for live audiences, Jay-R has done such events as Art Against AIDS, The Order Of Zues Red Ball, and ClubKid Invasion; just to name a few. He looks forward to Memorial Day Weekend to get his name out there, and let all those people HAVE IT! ...Spinning at FOREPLAY, Thursday night at Emerald City, 9pm-3am.

ROLAND BELMARES - One fateful night in Austin, 1996, a young man found himself surrounded by pulsing music, flashing strobe lights, thousands of sweaty men and a whole lot of fake smoke. He instantly fell in love. The event was MeltDown, and the kid was Roland Belmares. That was the night Roland Belmares decided to become a DJ; slowly building a name

[continued on Expose-12]

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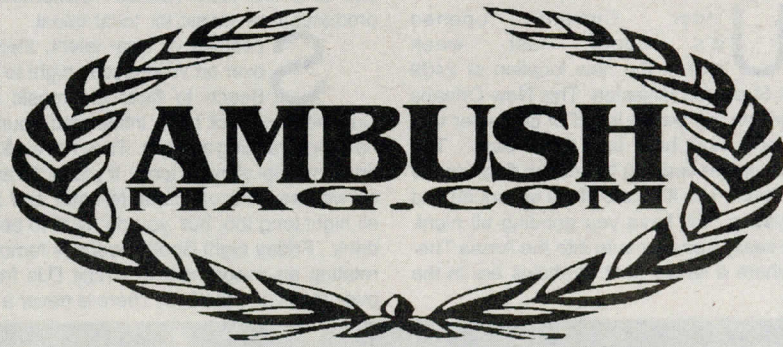
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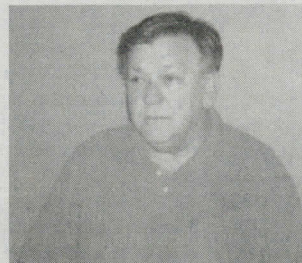
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UNDER ONE SKYLINE

by Joseph Hart, Houston-Galveston, TX
E-mail: joseph_ambushhouston@yahoo.com, 281.451.1141

Naked Fishing? I wasn't sure I had heard the man right. Naked fishing, do you want to go with us? Uh. No. Gay men don't fish and besides I'm not about to stand around nude while other gay men are flinging, slinging and twirling hooks around me. But, I went anyway! Oh you would too, naked athletic acting men, come on. Four hours later my burnt penis and I were sitting in "Keys West" having a cocktail. The staff is the friendliest around. This cute little bar is right off West Dallas just a coins toss from downtown.

Houston Pride is just two short months away and the pride volunteers have already begun to put together what is guaranteed to be the wildest and most amazing parade to date. You still have time to become a volunteer, just go to their website www.pridehouston.org and sign up. You may also want to get your advance tickets at this site. If you buy on line they're half price. All organizations that are participating are encouraged to attend the parade workshop at 1415 California on April 23 at 11am. The Pride Parade is Sat., June 25.

The Montrose Clinic has been assisting underserved people throughout the greater Houston area since 1985. This United Way agency has always been extremely proactive on so many subjects. When I stepped in to the bathroom of a local bar in Houston I was shocked to see a flyer on drug use. My first thought was I must be reading this wrong, but the more I read I understood that once again the Montrose Clinic (www.montrosecclinic.org) is being proactive. They understand that drugs are a part of life and hope they can some how prevent overdoses and misuse of drugs by educating the community and new users. Whether you personally believe people should be instructed on how to partake in illegal substances or not, the Montrose Clinic's stand on this subject is only to help.

Under Current opened its doors last week end at the new location at 2409 Market Street in Galveston. This New Orleans style bar on the beach is full of character that you simply can't build new these days. The grand staircase leading to second floor dance area, Thrust, with it's state of the art sound and light system will have you grinding all night. Thrust easily transforms to into the Arena Theatre, where a whole host of shows are in the works.

Splash is May 7 and the bar and DJ Neil is ready to go. Marvin and Keith have just signed with Spoiled Boys to host a Galveston Party weekend coming up in the next month. Look for details posted at the bar.

Bear watch weekend is May 20-22 (www.houstonareabears.com).

Miss Misty Valdez is hosting the annual ACCT Benefit Saturday night, May 21. I hope to once again be a performer for this great benefit, doing a number or two from my last show *Naked Boys Singing*. And if I'm lucky the readers and I can beg Mikel Reper, of *The Nest* to do a number or two as well.

There will be an opening celebration of Under Current featuring the Courts Of Houston on April 16.

Christian is doing all kinds of neat stuff updating EJ's Bar on Ralph Street. This unique bar always has more than one little cutie running around! Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights are the Amateur Dance Off Night. If you like looking at some of Houston's freshest faces you best get over there. Monday is \$1 Vodka Night and \$2 Margarita Night!

Houston's own Gay Men's Chorus had a concert this past Saturday night. If you haven't had the chance to see these guys sing you're missing out. The show was absolutely amazing. Also on Saturday, 97.9 *The Box* held an instructional music showcase. LA Toya Lukett, formally of Destiny Child, was one of many on the panel. This local event is to help showcase and answer many questions that new and up and coming artist have. Song writer and producer, Josh Duffy, (and my very own husband), who can be seen performing with Jessica Simpson in her video *Angels*, and in the soon to be released Disney movie, *Glory Road*, starring Jon Voight and J. Lucas covered the event for *Ambush*. Josh's company (jam_joshduffy@hotmail.com), is one of a few local Houston companies that produces new music for local talent.

Speaking of local talent, step right over on Wednesday night to South Beach to hear the music of DJ Cubanito. His hot Latin influenced sound will have you dancing all night. They have a \$2 well drink special all night long. If you're 18 and up, no worries, your welcome to enter and dance all night long too, but you do have to be 21 to drink. Friday night South Beach is famous for rotating an assortment of circuit DJs from all over Texas and the U.S. There is never a cover



Ms Kofi, Monday Night Strip at JR's

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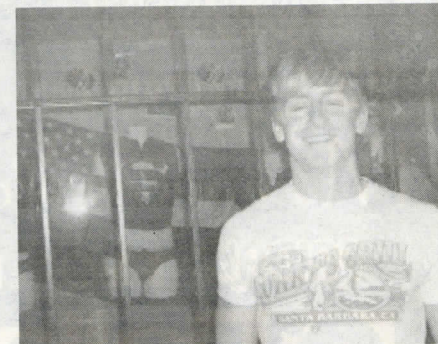
from 10:30 to 11 on Fridays with drink specials starting at 9pm.

Right next door at JR's, Miss Kofi hosts the amateur night at 11pm. If you're not from Houston and don't know who Kofi is, it's worth the trip to Houston to see our very own Houston Celeb. But be nice and bring those dollar bills cause her gowns are not cheap honey... It takes a lot of money to get up there on stage. If you like them, show them. Applause is nice but you can't buy a good pair of heels with that!

Chances is doing the *L-Word* up right every Sunday night with free food, \$1 vodka til 11pm, and all kinds of crazy trivia and prizes. Chances (www.chancesbar.com) is four bars in one at 1100 Westheimer, open every day 2pm - 2am. If you are one of those people who are just sitting around and waiting for the return of *Queer as Folk*, you need to march right on down to your local video store and rent *The L-Word*. Start with the first season and you will instantly be hooked. I have been addicted to all the story lines since the first show. Soon you'll be sitting at Chances right next to me on Sunday night!

Theatre Suburbia at 1410 West 43rd is the best little theatre house in town. They have been around for 44 years producing a huge assortment of shows. With the closing of so many "Gay Theatres," it has left our community searching for weekend entertainment. This theatre is the place. Oliver Blanco and Gene Grishban just closed *The Movie Maker*. Supporting actors are often over looked, but these two blew me right off stage. The current production, *Songs at Twilight*, is about three siblings coming to terms with the impending death of their mother. This show is worth far more than the ticket price of 10 dollars. You can barely see a movie for that price. Visit www.theatresuburbia.com.

So your Fat! Kristy Alley Fat, or just a tad over? Well, if you want to eat light and not starve yourself at the same time, and if you're like me and need some



Josh at Hollywood Superstore

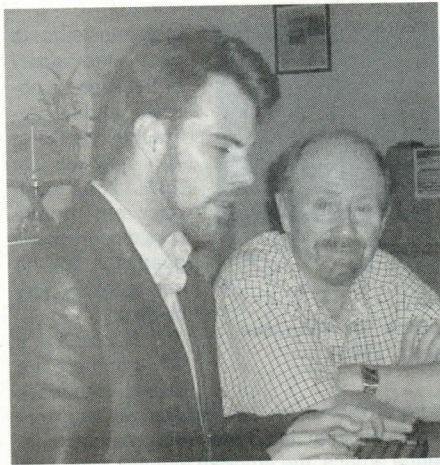
flavor in your food, may I suggest you get right over to La Mexicana. You pass it every time you hop over to the bars. Located on Fairview and Montrose, this place has the best low fat tacos. Order them a la' carte and at a buck seventy five each they will not break your budget or your belt!

Hollywood Cafe' - Coffee - Superstore is the perfect place to sit on a Saturday afternoon and have coffee. That huge screen television has me dying to watch one of the many movies they sell on it, one of the nasty ones that is! For all you tourists, Hollywood is located right behind South Beach and the Superstore is just a block away. The manager, Jason, has a great staff.

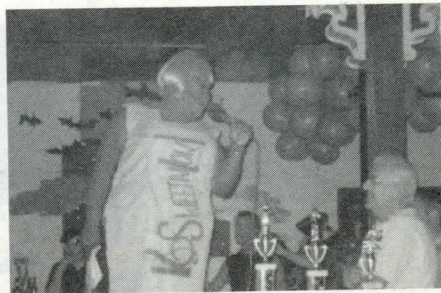
I want to thank every one for all the e-mails welcoming *Ambush* to Houston. We are proud to be a part of Houston. The title of our Houston column came to me as I was driving home one night from Austin. I remember seeing the skyline and thinking that we have one of the best skylines in the U.S. I also understand that we are a diverse group of individuals that live and work in our city. We drive the same streets, eat at the same places, party at the same bars. Our city unites us. We all fall *Under One Skyline*.

I read all the e-mails I receive and will post a few of them from time to time. If you have any thing you want *Ambush* to cover, please feel free to write to me.

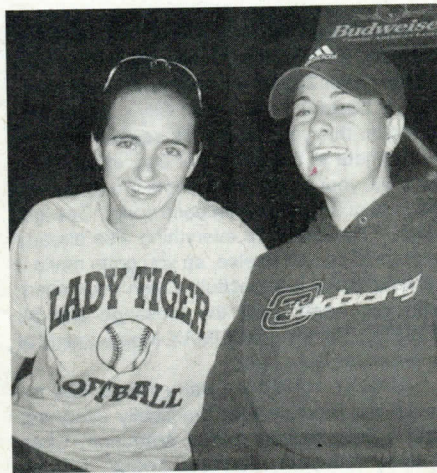
Cocktail & Club Action ~ HOUSTON-GALVESTON, TEXAS PHOTOS: JOSEPH HART



Jerry at Hollywood



Kofi at Jr's



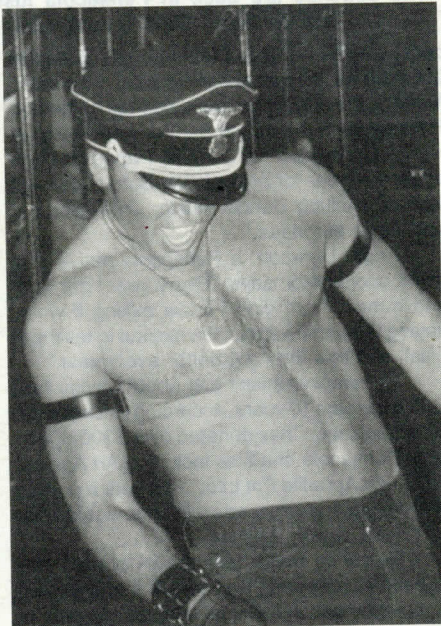
Kristian & Tonya



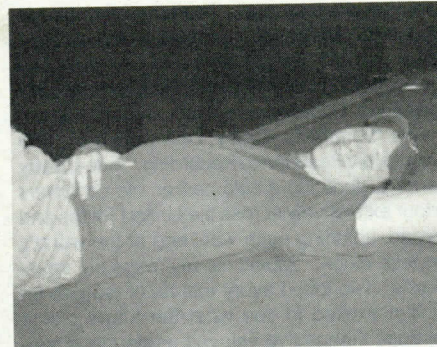
Brad at Under Current



Rene / Stephanie at Hollywood



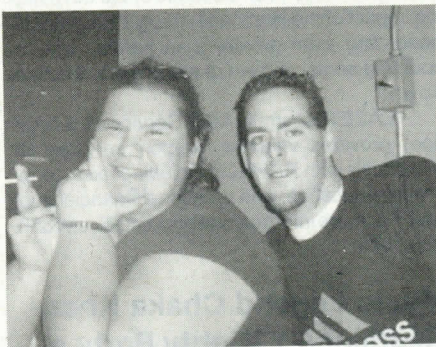
Lee of Manwatch



Doug being sleezy at Under Current



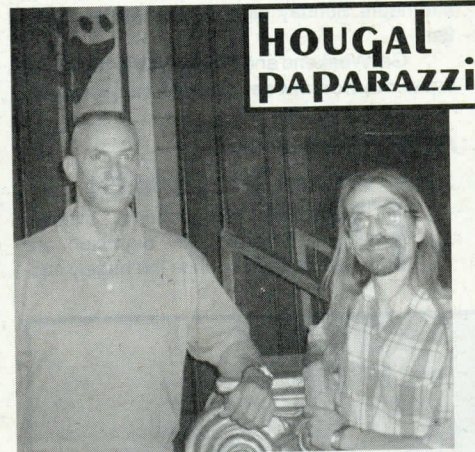
Julio & Ed



Hollywood regulars



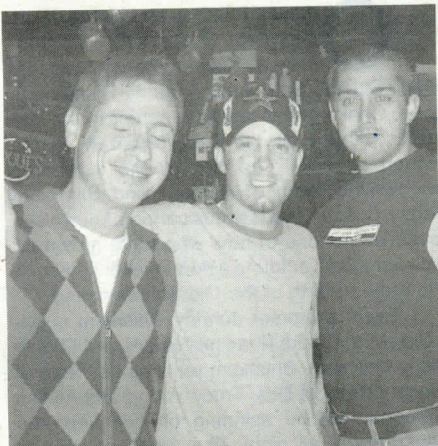
Chad & Rodolfo at Hollywood



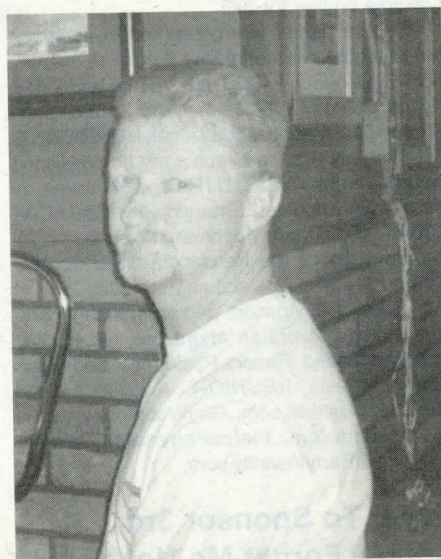
Marvin & Keith at "Thrust"



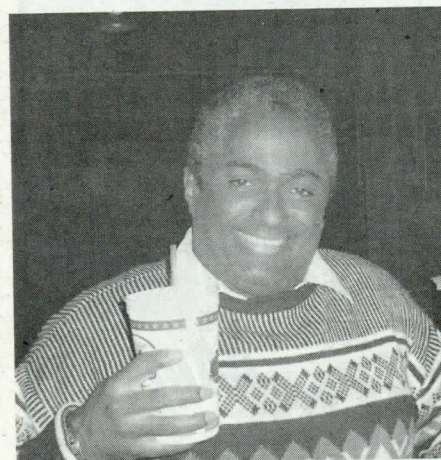
Toya & Josh



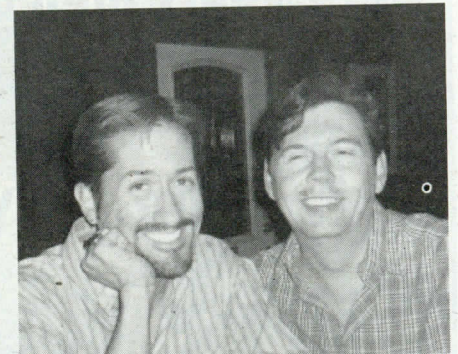
611 Bartenders



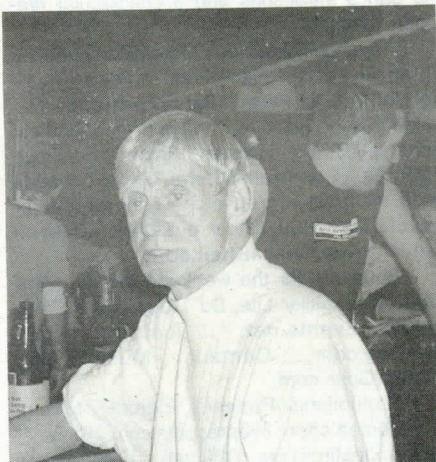
Bobby



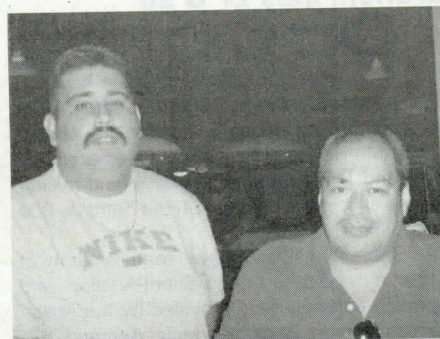
Ray Ray



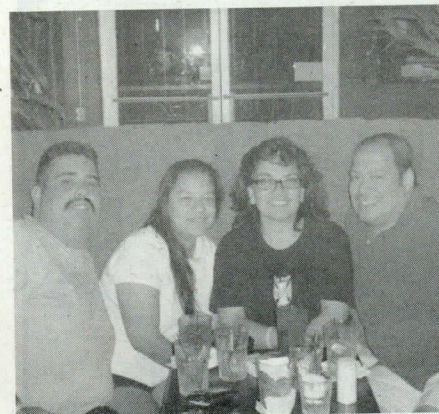
Trip & Kain in the Blue Room



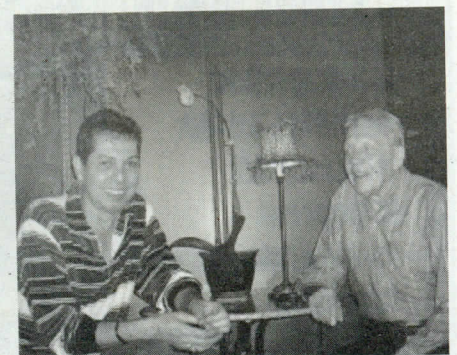
611 Manager Terry



Juan & Albert at Under Current



Under Current booth watchers



Julio & Ed in the Garden Room

florida ...from EX-8

for himself as a DJ who takes his art just as seriously whether there are twenty or two thousand people on the dance floor. The incredible impact Belmares made on audiences at both Meltdown and Perfect Day secured him a position on the discerning partygoer's hot list of circuit DJs. With a growing fan base spanning coast to coast, it was only a matter of time before Belmares was called upon to mix CDs for the industry's leading dance labels, including Dance One, 4Play Records, Centaur (Global & Party Groove) and Harlequin Records. Keep your eyes, and ears, on this rising star. ...Spinning at SWEAT, Saturday night at Emerald City, 9pm-3am.

ALYSON CALAGNA - Alyson Calagna discovered a love for music at an early age. Part of her childhood was spent living in Aberdeen, Scotland at which time she was first exposed to house music. This music sparked something inside of her and from the first moment she heard it, she was hooked. By the age of 16, she was living in Lafayette, Louisiana when she found a natural calling to the turntables. Within a short time, she was granted the opportunity for a residency at Images Nightclub due to her increasing popularity and sound. In April 1999, she won first place in the WPOW Power 96.5 spin off in Miami, Florida. After one year at club 735, the buzz about this powerhouse talent began to spread and as a result, she was booked at various nightclubs on the East Coast. This exposure was just the beginning for the now jet setting jock. She is currently a **Billboard** reporter and has been voted Up and Coming DJ for 2002 by Circuit Party Insanity. From global sensual grooves to tribal rhythms, this up and coming DJ is making her mark on the music world. ...Spinning at BOUNCE 2, Saturday afternoon at the Hilton, 4pm-8pm.

DEWIGHT BARKLEY - What started as a hobby buying records with his lunch money in junior high quickly escalated beyond a mere record collection and into a full fledged career for DJ Dewight Barkley. He learned the techni-

cal side of spinning vinyl through observation and found a use for his massive collection of 12" singles ("over 25,000 these days and still growing!" he boasts). As Emerald City's senior programmer, this year marks his seventh year of involvement in the Memorial Day experience. "As a DJ, your only claim to fame are those few seconds of art in between each song," Dewight notes. "The credit for everything else already belongs to someone else, so you gotta make it last and make it impactful!" Open your mind, open your heart, hear the message and be MOVED. ...Spinning at CLIMAX, Monday night at Emerald City, 9pm-3pm.

BARRY HARRIS - Barry Harris has remixed and produced for practically every important artist in pop music. Madonna, Cher, Whitney Houston, Jennifer Lopez, Britney Spears, Janet Jackson, Christina Aguilera, and Enrique Iglesias, among others. As one half the remix/production duo, Thunderpuss, Harris topped the **Billboard** charts an astounding 31 times. In 1998, Barry Harris and LA-based DJ/Producer Chris Cox became the internationally acclaimed Thunderpuss. Their first production, Donna Summer's **Carry On**, won the 1998 Grammy for Best Dance Recording. "Today, Barry Harris is pursuing a solo career. He continues to tour extensively across the United States and abroad, spinning each weekend at the world's biggest clubs. "Music is my passion says, "Harris. "I've loved every minute of the ride so far. I'm excited to see what the future brings because though I've enjoyed tremendous success, in my heart, I truly believe I'm just getting warmed up." ...Spinning at Spellbound 2, afterhours Sunday night at The Annex, 3am-9am.

Get Weekend and Weekend VIP passes at www.memorialweekendpensacola.com.

After the beach ...Go Where The Girls Go

Pensacola, FL - Johnny Chisholm and Emerald City nightclub are proud to announce the hugely suc-



The beaches are back in Pensacola just in time for Memorial Day Weekend 2005 (photo taken March, 2005).

cessful Memorial Day Weekend girl parties of 2004 are back for an encore in 2005. Forbidden 1 and 2, the parties for the ladies will be held at Flounder's on the Beach Saturday and Sunday nights. Crowd-favorite DJ Mary Pappas is back again this year for both nights. Both nights will feature exciting dance music, entertainment and other surprises.

Angie Denmon, a Pensacola native and event coordinator, says, "Every year I get calls and e-mails from girls I know asking if we're having the parties again. I'm excited to tell them 'Yes!' and that they get better every year."

The weekend isn't just about having fun; during the past 10 years, according to Chisholm, his organization "has donated over \$300,000 to local Pensacola charities including Art Against AIDS and Appetite For Life." This year a portion of the weekend proceeds will once again benefit these worthy causes.

Ready to make your travel plans? The website lists several real estate management companies and individuals offering a variety of rental properties such as condos and homes. Call the hotel of your choice for room availability. Air and other travel arrangement information can be found at www.circuittravel.com (1.888.883.3900).

The on-line Pensacola guide (www.MemorialWeekendPensacola.com) with the latest information is continually being updated about area businesses, hotels and restaurants.

After the beach, party and dance from 9pm-3am at Flounder's on the Beach (800 Quietwater Road) in Pensacola Beach next to The Boardwalk. Tickets for Forbidden 1 and 2 are \$15 each and may be purchased at the door to the events, or at the Hilton Garden Inn's ticket center beginning Thurs., May 26. Save \$5! Buy a girl party pass - valid for both nights - only available on-line for \$25.

These parties are presented in conjunction with other Memorial Day Weekend events, including Bounce 1 (DJ Tracy Young) and 2 (DJ Alyson Calagna), the Friday and Saturday afternoon pool parties. Friday night, HURRICANE (DJ Kimberly S.), the beach party at the Hilton. Saturday night SWEAT (DJ Roland Belmares) at the newly remodeled Emerald City. ABRACADABRA XI (DJ Manny Lehman) takes the stage Sunday night at the Pensacola Civic Center, during the same time slot as Forbidden 2.

Weekend sponsors and promotional partners include: **Ambush Magazine**, Miller Lite, Portofino Island Resort Residence and Spa, Centaur Music, REUNION, JustCircuit.com, TheQueerAgenda.com, GayWebMonkey.com, 360presents.com, FierceParty.com (Dallas), and CircuitPartyInsanity.com.

EASE To Sponsor 3rd Annual Forget-Me-Not Ball & Brunch, May 27 & 28

Pensacola, FL - Thanks to Hurricane Ivan, the location may have changed but the mission has not. For the 3rd straight year, EASE (Escambia AIDS Services & Education) is hosting its annual Forget-Me-Not Ball & Brunch over Memorial Day Weekend, May 27 & 28. This year's fund-raising event will be held at Hadji Shrine Temple, 800 West Nine Mile Road.

Saturday night's ball will feature plenty of music, a live Art Auction, a Silent Auction, and topnotch entertainment provided by the Austin Babbist Women. Back by popular demand, this all male troupe in "church lady drag" from Austin, TX, will have you rolling in laughter between

opportunities to bid on a wide variety of paintings, art objects and more. The ball begins at 7pm and will last "until." A full cash bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres will guarantee that no one goes hungry or thirsty.

Sunday's Champagne Brunch promises

more of the same. The Brunch will last from 11am until 2pm. In addition to a catered champagne brunch, the program features more Live Auction and lots more laughter, thanks to the Austin Babbist Women who will once again be entertaining guests with their unique brand of humor.

Tickets for the Saturday night Forget-Me-Not Ball are \$35 per person with tickets for the Sunday Champagne Brunch being \$20 per person. For those interested in attending both events, a ball and brunch combo ticket can be purchased for the discount price of \$50 per person. All proceeds from the sale of tickets and the Auctions will go to provide AIDS service and education.

According to Sybil Suhuques, event organizer, "The Forget-Me-Not Ball & Brunch is the most important fund-raising effort we do each year. Last year we set a goal of \$25,000, and I'm glad to say we made it. Despite the impact of Hurricane Ivan the response within the community has been excellent, and we hope to exceed that amount this year. Because of the devastating impact of the Hurricane, many of our clients' needs are even greater than before. They're counting on us, and we're not going to let them down."

EASE (Escambia AIDS Services & Education) provides valuable support services for individuals with HIV/AIDS including food, counseling, education, and emotional/financial support. For more information about EASE, call 850.456.7079.

Music Legend Chaka Khan Headlines 1 Mighty Party at Disney/MGM Studio

Orlando, FL - Pop and dance music superstar Chaka Khan will perform at 1 Mighty Party at Disney/MGM Studios Sat., June 4 during Disney gay days. Chaka began her solo career in the late 1970s with the hit, **I'm Every Woman**, a tune written especially for her by the legendary songwriting team of Ashford and Simpson. Today, Chaka Khan is a musical icon, known and loved by millions of fans who have grown up with her music or found a new love for it through the radio re-birth of the Old School sound.

Event promoter Johnny Chisholm is excited about Chaka Khan performing at 1 Mighty Party this year. Chisholm reminds us, "Two of the world's best DJs, Tracy Young and Alyson Calagna, will be spinning on two separate dance floors all night. Plus you'll be able to experience an awesome light show, the thrill of the park's attractions and a spectacular fireworks display."

Advance tickets for 1 Mighty Party and the Three days of REUNION Pool Parties are available on-line at www.1MightyParty.com. Reunion passes (valid for 3 days of pool parties) features DJs Jon Herseth, Kimberly S., Doug Healy, Don Bishop and Warren Gluck. For additional information, please check the website or call 850.433.7499. Check out Chaka Khan on line at www.ChakaKhan.com.

Sponsors for the weekend include: **Ambush Mag**, Miller Lite, DJ Tracy Young, Wet, ReunionEvents.net, JustCircuit.com, GayDay.com, Centaur Music and GayDarGuys.com.

Promotional Partners: FierceParty.com, queertampa.com, 360presents.com, Rites of Spring, JoMints.com, CPI.com, Tribe, Cherry, GayWebMonkey.com, TheQueerAgenda.com, and CircuitTravel.com.

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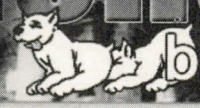


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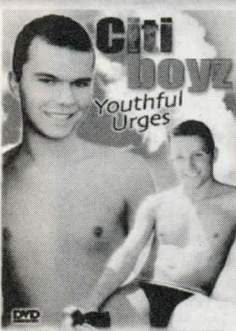


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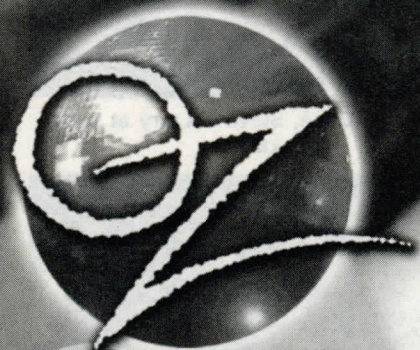
January **THURSDAY NIGHTS**

@ MIDNIGHT

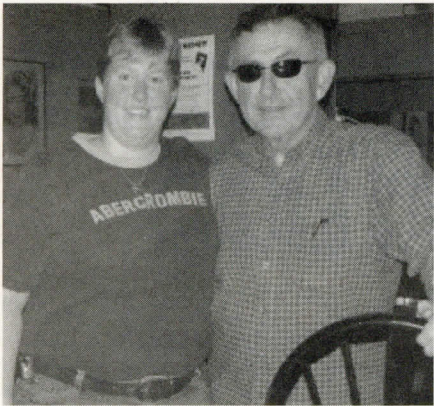
February
CALENDAR
March
April
BOY
May
June
July



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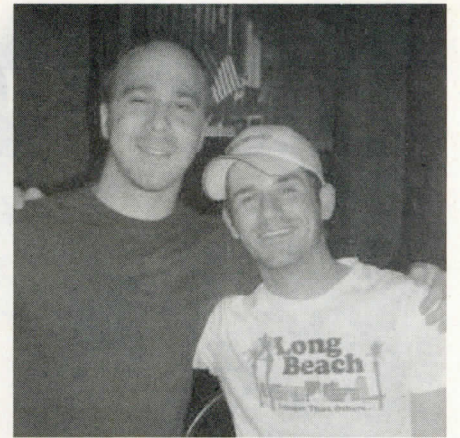
Chansley & Richard at George's



JZ relaxing at L



Michael, Rick & Tom ready for brunch



Wayne & Dan at Splash



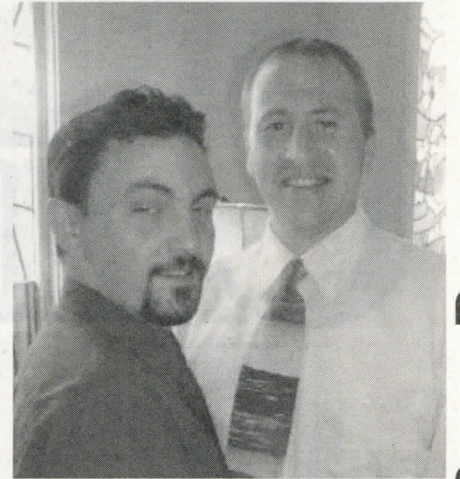
Frank & Donald enjoying a night out



Gorgeous Gleeson, a picture of perfection



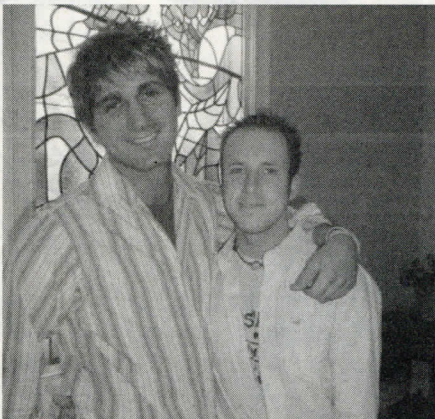
Apollo Sam & Amon Ra Sam



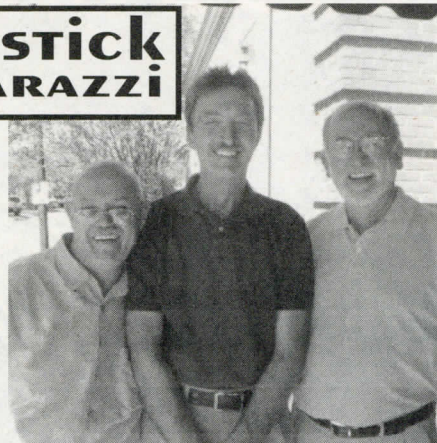
Chris & Matt sparkle at brunch



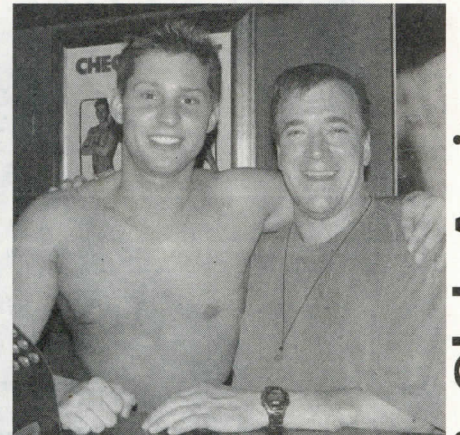
Gia & Sheila brighten up George's



Splash's Lance & Mikey at Apollo brunch



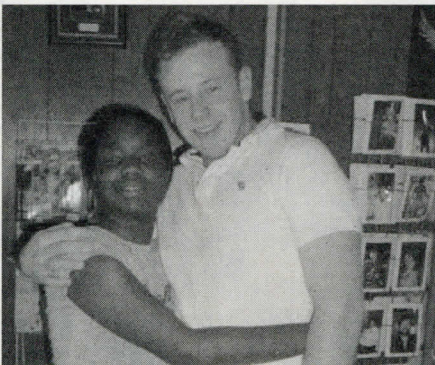
The Lady Rhonda, Jim & Truman



Two fabulous Red Stick sweethearts



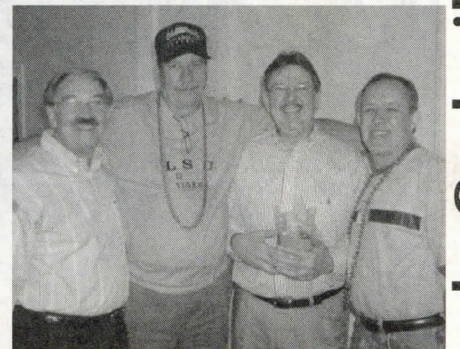
George, Gene, Steve & Larry at fundraiser



Chardonay & James shopping at Hibiscus



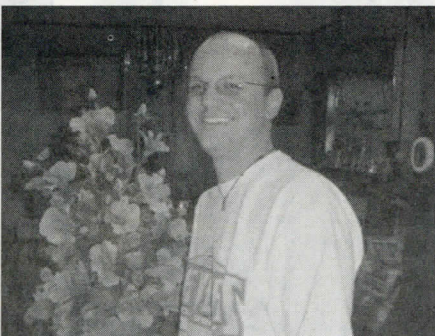
Three Ds - David, Dusty & David



Jean, David, Michael & Dennis at brunch



John & Jim at Hibiscus Bookstore



Cajun Tommy back visiting friends



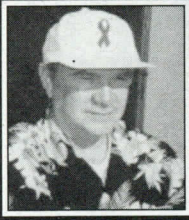
WC Brigade (the Apollo Kitchen Krewe)



Varla Merman performing at Splash

**RED STICK
PAPARAZZI**

KREWES, BRUNCH, COCKTAIL & CLUB ACTION ~ BATON ROUGE PHOTOS: BRAD BENEDICT



HOT TAILS of RED STICK

by Brad Benedict
Baton Rouge

Back to Careaux's

I told you in a recent column about Careaux's Mexican Grill and Bar in Gonzales. Well, several of us went back down there for some more great food and drinks. Sam invited me, and we went by and picked up Leonard and cute little Eric. Actually, Eric made the trip worthwhile. He is just one of the sweetest sweethearts out there right now, and I really enjoy his company.

As usual, dynamic Corey and his magnificent other half Carey made us feel so welcome and comfortable. It's not every night I drive this far to dine out, but I'm telling all of you now that this is one drive that is well worth the time and effort to reach such nice conclusions. The food is excellent, and the drinks are outstanding. Throw in that mouth-watering flan, and you think you are actually in Mexico. It is absolute some of the finest food you will find this side of the Rio Grande River.



Corey & Carey with Carey's grandmother at Careaux's.

Part of this is due to Carey's grandmother who started a restaurant in South Texas many years ago. She's the catalyst that holds the new venture together, but it's Carey and Corey who make it worth your time and money to take in the atmosphere and great food you find at Careaux's. Forget the drive. Just head down the Interstate, turn left at Tanger Mall, go to the car dealership, turn left and go toward the downtown section until you see Careaux's on the left, right past Etel.

I've never eaten quesadillas as good as what Carey cooks up at this restaurant. His margaritas are also especially good. They have a little extra kick to them that makes you perk up in a hurry. And the chips and dip are fantastic too. The menu is definitely mouth-watering in its descriptions. Leonard had the grilled chicken breast Gonzales, and it was a sight to behold. It was a humongous breast. Let me tell you. I know my breasts, and this was a humongous one!

Eric and Sam went for lighter fare, but the appetizers placed before us were superb in all respects. Did I mention the great margaritas? Go there. Tell them Brad sent you. It's a dining experience you will long remember and want to repeat time and time again. Besides, if you go early enough, you can always stop by Tanger Mall's Jockey shop and do your undies like Lance, Mikey, and Eric do. Just make a day of it, or a night of it. If you don't want to eat, go drinking. Just make sure you have a designated driver. You will need one after you have a couple or two or three margaritas.

Careaux's is tops in my book. Corey and Carey need the support of the community. You will be glad you took my advice. Make it happen soon. And be sure to top it all off with flan. Oh, my god!

Those Apollo Studs

This past Sunday saw a fabulous fund-raiser at the Women's Club in Baton Rouge. The Baton Rouge Krewe of Apollo is doing things a little differently this year. They have issued a calendar to their members of all the things being planned for the entire year, including their next ball date of January 28, 2006. It will make number 25 for them.

If you don't know anyone in Apollo, maybe you should make it a point to introduce yourself and let this individual or individuals know of your interest in supporting this krewe. That's what it is all about. Don't expect to sit back and get a free invite to their bal masque if you don't care to support their projects throughout the year. That is why some of you are passed over or

have to buy tickets. And here again, don't fret if you have been overlooked and don't get included in a free ball seat. It takes lots of money and a lot of hard work to get to that point. You need to be active in krewe functions or keep you whining to yourself.

The fund-raiser last Sunday was an elaborate dinner at the Women's Club, and all the invitees had a marvelous time. It was a \$20 per person function, and there was even entertainment in the form of solos by Alan Daigrepoint and the magnificent Lady Rhonda. Both are members of Apollo, and this was their contribution to the event. Even the kitchen help and the waiters were members or strong supporters of the krewe.

There were lots of great guys and gals there, but I have to admit, I do have my favorites. Get real! Everyone has the hots for somebody. Take Lance for instance. The boy rings my chimes every time I'm around him, and that cute little Mikey ain't far behind. It took a lot for these two hunks to crawl out of bed just to make this luncheon, but it shows that they support the

[continued on EX-20]

George's

"Bear your Chest Night"

April 16th • 9pm

Furry Chest Contest with Prizes

(every 3rd Saturday of the month)

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Full Moon Party with Gia

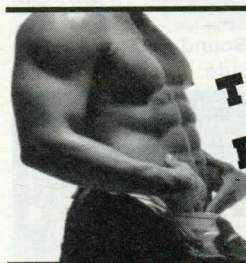
Friday, April 22nd • 12 midnight

Apollo Women's Auxiliary Annual Car Wash

Saturday, April 30th • 2 - 4pm

MONDAY

Happy Hour All Day • 3pm-2am

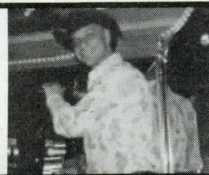


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FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS
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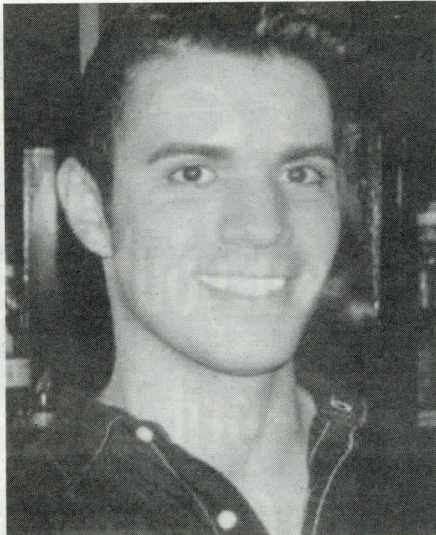
Careaux's
MEXICAN GRILL AND BAR

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647.0447

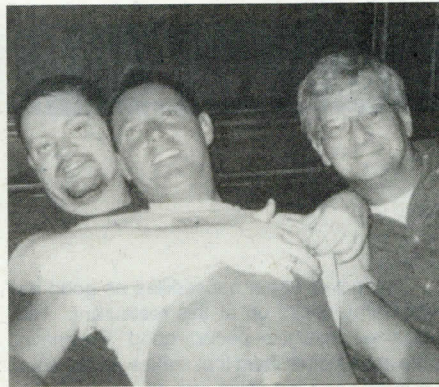
Monday thru Thursday
11am to 8pm
Friday and Saturday
11am to 9pm
Closed Sunday



Erin getting wild at Sound Factory



Dallas bartending at Sound Factory



John, Craig & Nick cutting up at Back Side



Trumaine working the back door at Jules

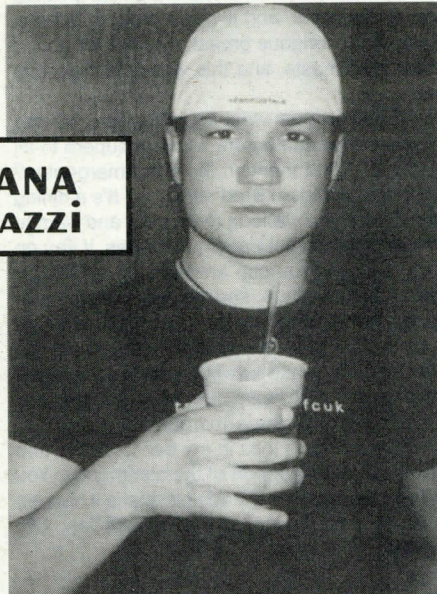


Vahn at Sound Factory



Stacy enjoying a night out at Back Side

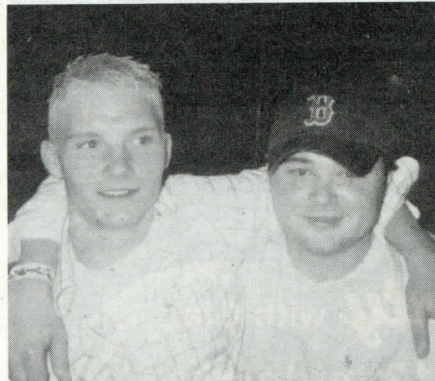
**ACADIANA
PAPARAZZI**



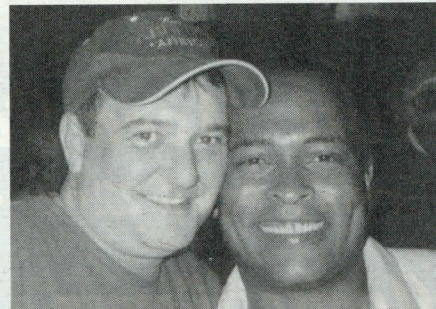
Macky partying at Back Side



Jay, Jodie & Jacob working the door at Jules



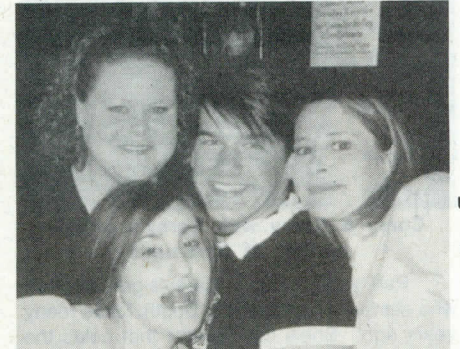
Jonathan & Randy hanging out at Sound Factory



Emile & Mark having a blast at Back Side



Shawn & Jon hanging out at Back Side



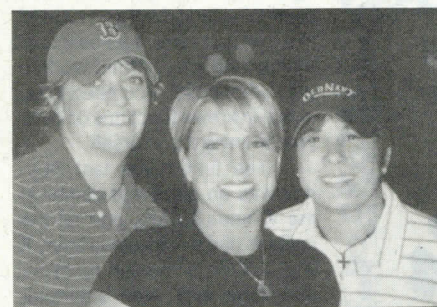
Stephanie, Blake, Trudie & Andrea partying at Jules



Jasmine performing for Show Night at Sound Factory



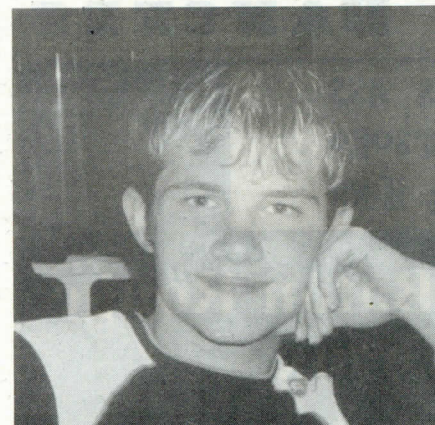
Troy & Raynee at Sound Factory's Back Side



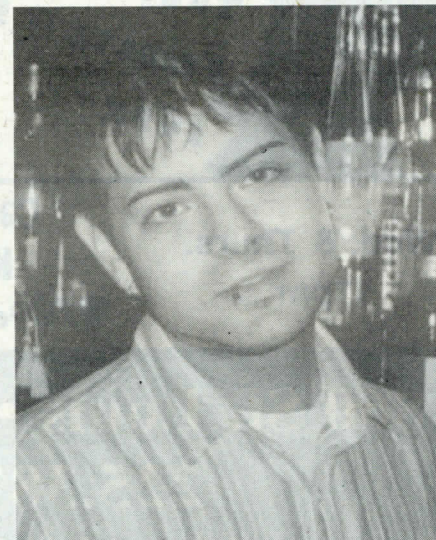
Jill, Aundrea & Kim chilling at Jules



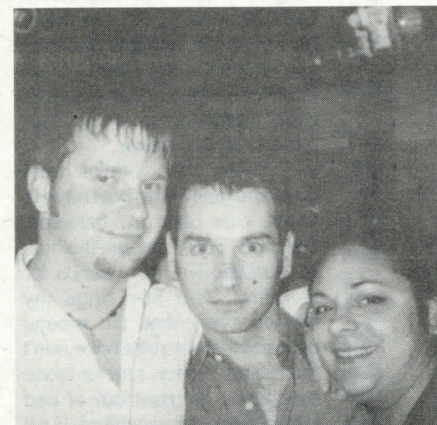
Jon & Deborah hanging out at Jules



Chris, a regular at Sound Factory



Adam bartending at Back Side



Raynee, Mardy & Audra partying at Jules



Addison & Cord playing pool at Jules

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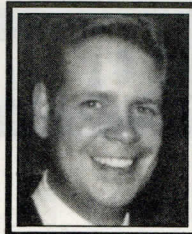
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ALLONS ACADIANA

by Patrick Clinton
e-mail: BlondAtULL@aol.com

Spring Break is over and we're well on our way to summer. There are just a few more weeks until all you college students will be taking finals. In the meantime, there'll be a lot going on around Acadiana. Festival International is fast approaching, and for those of you new to the area, it's an absolute blast. So over the next few weeks plan on sticking around because things are about to get wild.

Sound Factory, along with its Back Side, has something exciting planned for every night of the week. Sound Factory opens every night at 8pm and has a spectacular weekly lineup.

Every Monday night, Sound Factory has Happy Hour drink prices all night long.

Tuesdays at Sound Factory have become famous around Acadiana. If you're planning on having a great night, there's no avoiding their Karaoke Night. It's where all your friends will be.

Every Wednesday night you can come by Sound Factory and enjoy a drink while watching sexy male dancers.

On Thursdays you won't want to miss Drink-N-Drown. This is the night where you can pay ten dollars and drink all night long for free. And the best part is if you are not drinking, you don't have to pay. Regardless, Sound Factory is the most economical place in town on Thursday night.

On Friday Nights you can enjoy Big Girl Cocktails all night long for three dollars.

And who could forget about the Saturday Night Special at Sound Factory. Each Saturday night, Sound Factory will run a drink special for that night only. It could be anything from dollar schnapps to dollar domestic beer. It'll be their little surprise. And the best part is there won't be a cover charge. That's right, you can get into Sound Factory for free and still take advantage of their surprise drink special. Now that's a deal.

To end the week, Sunday night is Show Night. This is the night where you can come out with all your friends and enjoy some good old fashioned gay entertainment.

And on Monday, the fun starts all over again.

With so much going on at Sound Factory, it's easy to forget about its Back Side right next door. But that would be a mistake, because Back Side offers not only a totally different atmosphere, but a different weekly lineup.

Every Monday is a Pool Tournament starting at 8pm, and there's Happy Hour all night long.

Tuesdays are "Get A Long One For Less." All your favorite domestic longnecks are only two dollars.

Wednesdays you can enjoy hot male dancers.

Every Thursday night, the Back Side will have a Dart Tournament starting at 8pm, not to mention the two dollar longnecks they'll be serving all night long.

On Friday nights, the Back Side offers a Draft Beer Bust with three dollar pitchers all night long.

Saturdays are Dollar Draft Night.

And who could forget about the Sunday Brunch Buffet at Back Side. And think, you can walk right next door for different drink specials at Sound Factory.

And to make things even better, the Back Side offers food seven days a week from open til close. So if you find yourself hungry while your out, take advantage of Back Side's new menu of foods. It's fast, friendly, convenient, and very reasonably priced.

With everything the Sound Factory and its Back Side has to offer, it would be a real crime to miss out on all the fun.

Jules Downtown has a lot planned for the next few weeks. On Fri., April 15, Jules is hosting "Boys with

Toys," their first ever men's fun party. So if you are really in for a wild time, you know where to be.

Beginning Thurs., April 21 thru Sun., April 24, Jules will be celebrating Festival International. They'll be open every day, all day, for festivities. It should be a celebration to remember. And while you're waiting for the celebration, don't forget about Jules Downtown's weekly lineup.

Jules is open every Wednesday thru Saturday, with great specials each night. And every night, don't forget about their Happy Hour Drink Specials from 8 til 10pm. This means you can always start off the night with two for one well drinks or domestic beer. It really does pay to show up early at Jules.

Jules begins their week with a night of hot guys and great drink specials. To begin every Wednesday night, you can take advantage of half price wells and domestic beer until midnight. At 10pm the night gets really wild when the Men of Manwatch begin taking it off for your viewing pleasure. You can watch some of the hottest guys around and there's no cover charge. Now that's a party.

Thursday nights are Karaoke Night. You can come out and sing to your heart's desire. Or if you don't like singing, you can have just as much fun watching. Regardless, you'll have a blast.

And who could forget about weekends at Jules Downtown? Every Friday night at Jules is Retro Night. You can come out and enjoy the biggest hits from the 70s, 80s, and 90s. It's a real blast from the past.

Every Saturday, you can find the biggest party around at Jules Downtown. You can not only enjoy the Men of Manwatch, but Jules now has one dollar well drinks and domestic beer all night long. And on top of all this, you can dance the night away to some of the best music to be found in Acadiana. It's no wonder that they call it a Dance Party.

And when the week is finished, it all starts again on Tuesday. If you're looking for a party, Jules is the place for you.

Over the next few weeks, Acadiana is really going to be popping so make sure you're in the mood to have a blast. Until next time, have fun and be safe. I hope to see you around town.

hot tails of red stick ...from EX-17

community, and they definitely support the functions of Apollo. Both of these guys are very special human beings.

Someone else who is very special, and I hadn't seen him in quite some time. It was that wonderful Montpelier boy, the ever-so handsome Gleeson, who raised a lot of eyebrows. One attendee walked up to me and asked me if I knew him, and I had to assure him that he was taken by an equally beautiful stud named Bryan. Gleeson is going to make the community a great vet one of these days. He's a junior now, and I can hardly wait to give him my support. He is just super special, a very kind and caring friend.

I'm not sure who had the idea to have this luncheon, but Larry explained that with the 25th year of existence, members wanted and expected something a little different. It was one of several functions planned all the way up to next January. Larry is the founder of the krewe and one of Red Sticks top floral experts. You can check out his goods at Four Seasons Flowers and Gifts at the Drusilla Shopping Center off Jefferson Highway and Drusilla Lane. His co-owner/assistant is none other than the studly Hal. These two are the captain and co-captain of Bal Masque XXV.

I noted several out-of-towners who came

[continued on EX-26]

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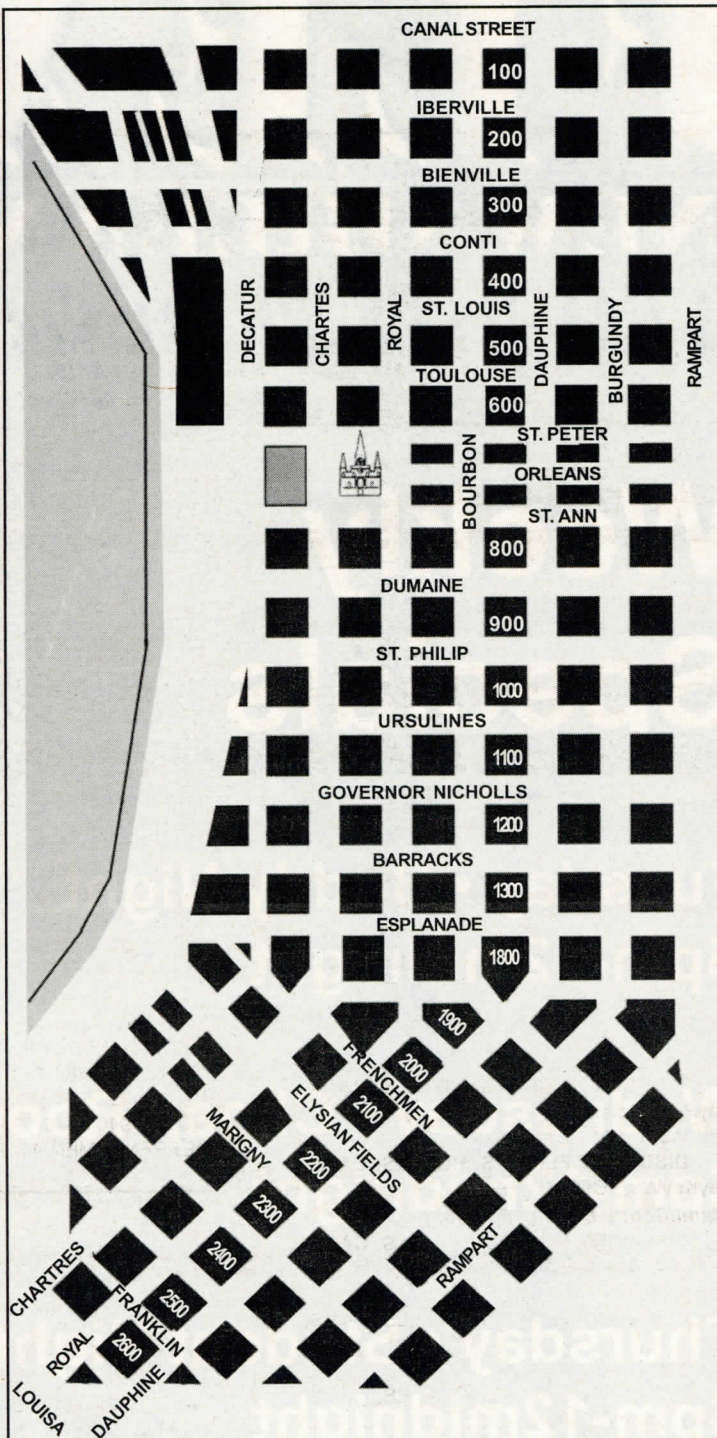
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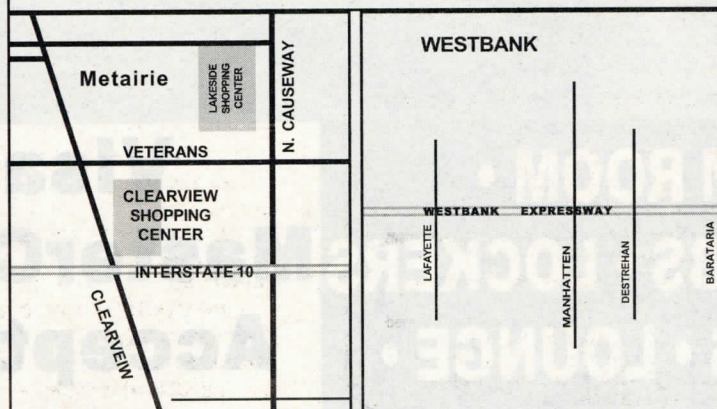
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New Orleans, LA [504]

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CAC [Contemporary Arts Center], 900 Camp St., 528.3805, cacno.org

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HAART (HIV/AIDS Alliance for Region Two), 4550 North Blvd., #250, 927.1269, Fax: 927.7367, haartinc@aol.com

GBLSU [Gays, Bisexuals, Lesbians & Supporters United], glsapres@unix.lsu.edu, Kristy Price, President, 388.5160

KREWE OF APOLLO/BATON ROUGE, PO Box 3591, 70821; kreweapollobr.org

KREWE OF CAPITAL CITY ROYAL ORDER OF UNICORN, 3337 Glenmore Ave., 70806; 267.4701, www.ccrrou.cjb.net

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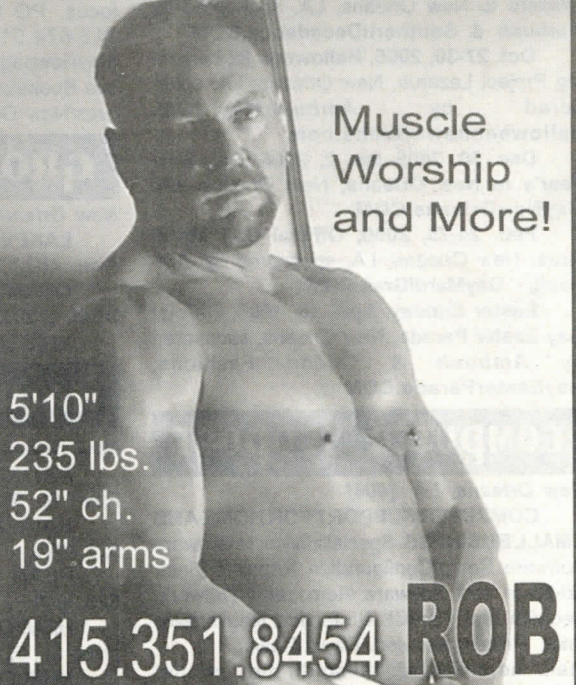
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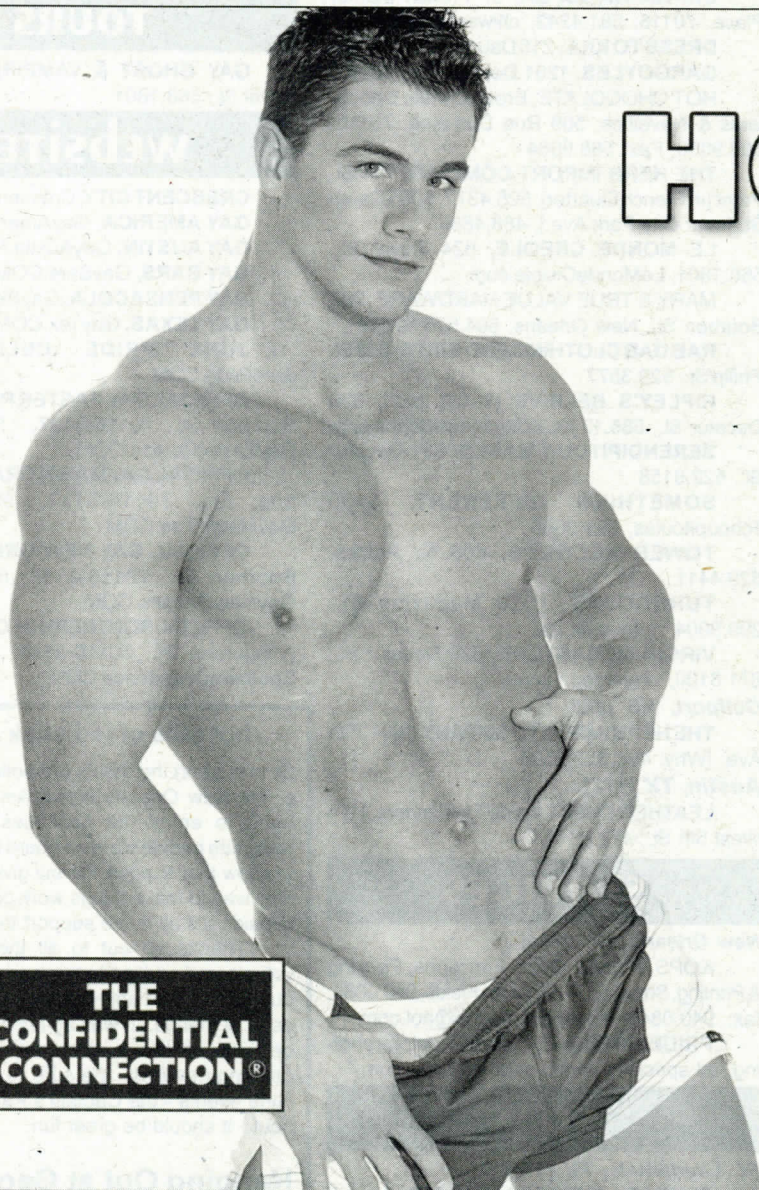
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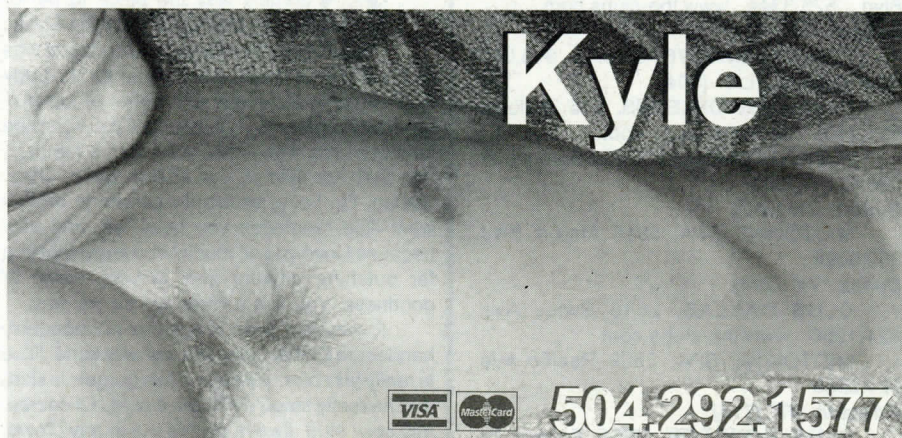
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DRAMA! [A Gay & Lesbian Arts Organization], PO Box 52565, 70152; 948.9924, DramaNO.org, DRAMA@DramaNO.org

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LA-LIFT, Social Club for Lesbians, age 50+, who have fun together on weekends. E-mail: armyvet20@webtv.net

LEGAL [Louisiana Electorate of Gays and Lesbians], PO Box 70344, 70172; 595.8586

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW ORLEANS, 234 Loyola, Suite 421, 70112; 581.9106

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PEOPLE OF SUBSTANCE, INC. (POS), 7210 Arbor Dr., 70126, 244.1920, posnola.com

PFLAG/NO [Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays/ New Orleans], PO Box 15515, 70175; 895.3936, 392.0001, pflagno.org, info@pflagno.org

PRIDE NEW ORLEANS, PO Box 52343, 70152-2343; 480.NOAP (6627)

PROJECT LAZARUS, A Residence for PWAs, PO Box 3906, 70177-3906; 949.3609

RA/UNO (Rainbow Alliance/University of New Orleans), Office of Campus Activities, 200 Lakeshore Dr., 70148; 280.6349; FAX: 280.6633. Regular meetings Thursdays, 12:30-1:30, RM 210 of UC, all students and members of UNO are welcome

REGIONAL AIDS INTERFAITH NETWORK [RAIN], 523.3755

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PHILADELPHIA CENTER, PO Box 44454, 71134-4454; 222.6633

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hot tails of red stick ...EX-20

up to support the efforts of Apollo. Smiling Sam of the New Orleans krewe Amon Ra was on hand to enjoy the festivities, and several Lafayette people were on board too. It just goes to show that support for any given krewe is the only way to make things work out the way they should. It's all in the support that you give it.

Thanks go out to all the workers who volunteered and made this work. They did their duties, and then enjoyed the food and camaraderie of friends. It was an occasion to remember with all the fond memories that such a gathering evokes. Be sure to watch for their June events - the Captain's Party and Turnabout. It should be great fun.

Hanging Out at George's

George's was the place to be for the big show put on by the Mystic Krewe of Royalty. The talent was on hand in abundance, and, of course, the Lady Rhonda stole the show with some of her outrageous comments. I dare not tell you what she said to Alexis Alexander, but it was a fabulous tale that she told at our brunch table. See, darling, I'm being especially careful to protect what little reputation you have left, and only because I love you so much. You know that you far outshine anyone else in your realm of goodness. You are a class act all the way.

It was also good to see the outrageously handsome Phil at George's last weekend. Blue is really his color. He had on this gorgeous shirt, and he really stood out in the crowd. Of course, this sexy stud always stands out in any crowd. He's really a nice guy and a lot of fun to be around.

Sweet William was out again last week too. This is another hot number who is really a nice one to know. He has always been one of my favorite human beings, and he is really a great friend. If you haven't met this one, you have really missed a treat. William is a gem, a hidden diamond waiting to show the sparkle hidden within. He's truly a nice, nice guy to get to know. And knowing him is to love him.

I need to talk to Gia soon. There's someone I haven't met, and I need to interview him for an article. She knows who I refer to. I expect to see both of them in the very near future. Right Gia?

And tonight as I write this finishing touch to my column, I'm wishing I were at George's seeing beautiful Beau in all his blue glory. This is one hot little stud that always turns me on. There is so much more to him than you see on that dance floor. There is a great human being there, and he's a prize among prizes. I've known Beau for a long time, and I cherish our relationship. What more can I say but to tell you that he's another of those rare gems that doesn't come along often. I consider him someone to be

[continued on EX-27]

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hot tails of red stick ...from EX-26

very, very special.

Splashing Around

I enjoyed my visit with friends at Splash last week. I hadn't seen Wayne in a while, and I'm anxious to see how his lawyer test works out. Hopefully, it will be a positive result. I need a good lawyer, and the community could definitely use another good one. Move over Joseph. Wayne is coming through.

It's always nice seeing Kevin. He seems to be the strong catalyst that makes things work so beautifully at this entertainment emporium. I know how hard he works, and I know he is a really happy with his efforts to make Splash the best and most fun place around. Karen does her part too with the wonderful music, and I have to brag on Mr. Butt Beautiful of 2005. I do love my Lance and his sexy roomie too.

I have to admit that I keep up with what is going on at Splash by getting their notices via e-mail. If you haven't checked out their web site, you need to do this, and if you want their notices sent to you concerning upcoming events, all you have to do is request it.

If you missed Varla Jean Merman last week, you again missed a great piece of entertainment history. Varla is a hometown girl who has made it good on an international basis. As you well know, she's the illegitimate daughter of Ethel Merman and Ernest Borgnine. I think that he was the daddy. Who knows!!!! At any rate, you are always well entertained when you make one of her shows. As far as I'm concerned, she should be headlining a Vegas show. She's that good!

I hope you all voted for the prom king and queen. I went online and voted for my favorites. I wonder who won. Guess I'll have to go over and pay Splash another visit.

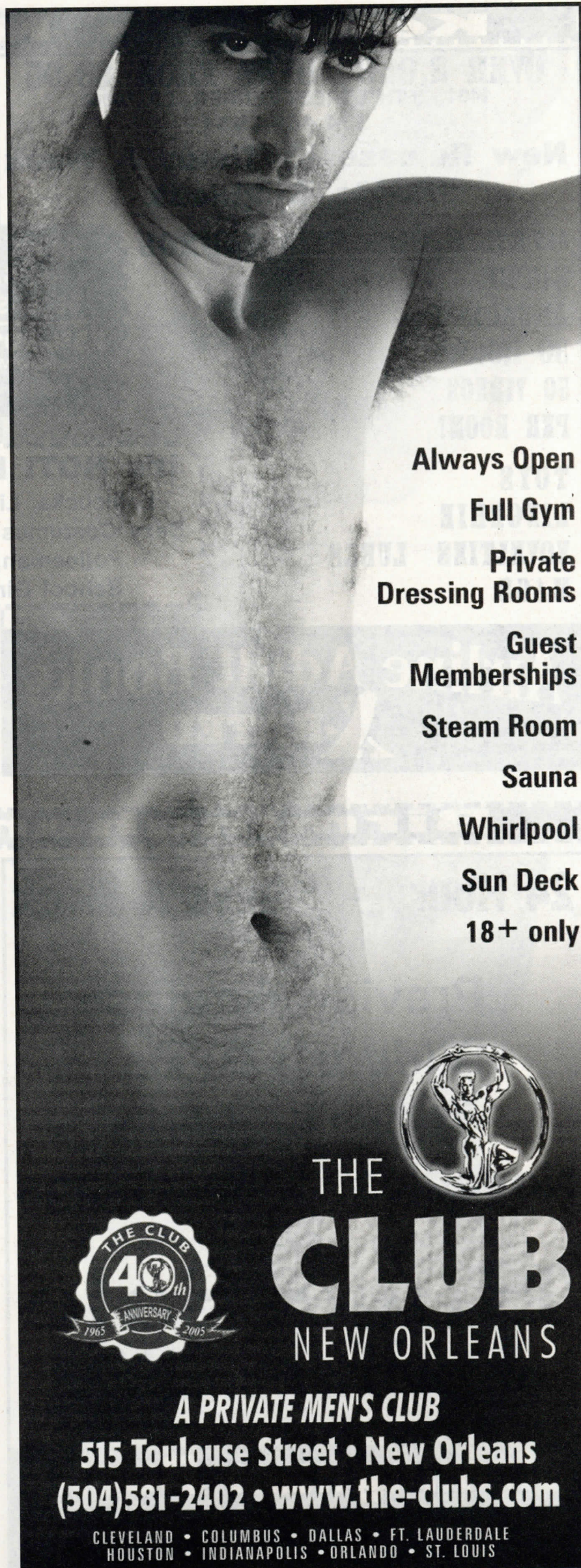
Red Stick Miscellanea

Tommy from Las Vegas made a surprise trip to Baton Rouge and to the Acadian country. Originally from Eunice, he came in to visit relatives and friends before starting a new casino job later this month. Vegas has been good to him. It's given him a fantastic increase in funds, brought him a new love in his life, and given him a new place to call home. I ran into him at Hibiscus Bookstore, and he was on his way back to the airport and the return home. He came in a day early and stayed at the book baron's home and partied earlier with friends.


While heading out to Bay St. Louis, a car came up next to me, and it was Phyllis and Pam. We talked briefly with our windows down, and I learned they were on their way to Memphis. I don't usually converse with people while driving down the Interstate, but this was a special time. Inquiring minds needed to know destinations.

I stopped in at L last week and caught a couple of great comedy acts. It was nice to see such a nice crowd out, and they were all having such a great time. This is one of the nicer bars in Baton Rouge, and I think Robert is bringing in some great programs. JZ is my friendly bartender, and I have to tell you that she was absolutely gorgeous at the Apollo brunch this past Sunday. I usually see her at the bar, but this was a first at a major fundraiser. She really stood out in the crowd with her stylish outfit which fit her perfectly.


That's about all for this time. I do hope you go out and support all the people I write about. As a community, we need to stand together, support one another in every endeavor that comes along, and, most of all, respect one another. Life is short. Why be such a negative person when a smile can bring on such a friendly encounter? Try that smile sometimes. You'd be surprised what can be accomplished by a kind word or a positive image. It's called goodness.



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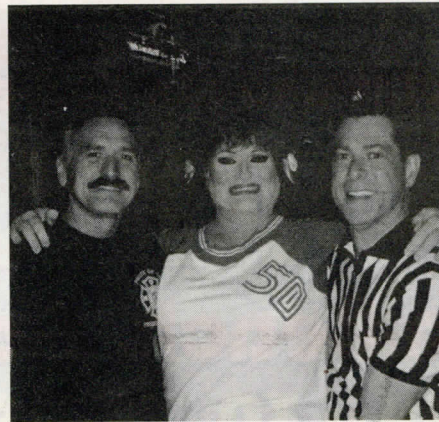
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Belle Reve's Vicki Weeks & MC Bianca Del Rio



Wrestlers Paul & Trent



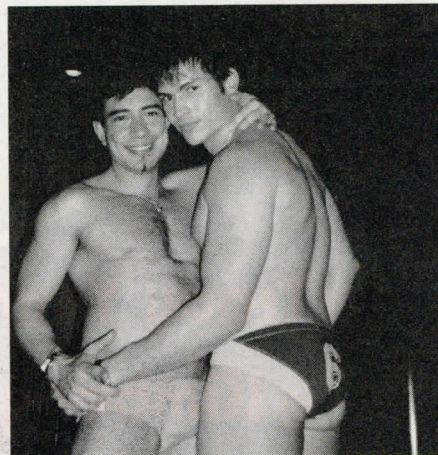
Tim, Phyllis & Brian



Belle Reve Exe. Dir. Vicki Weeks, Cowpokes Rex Romans & Ambush's Marsha



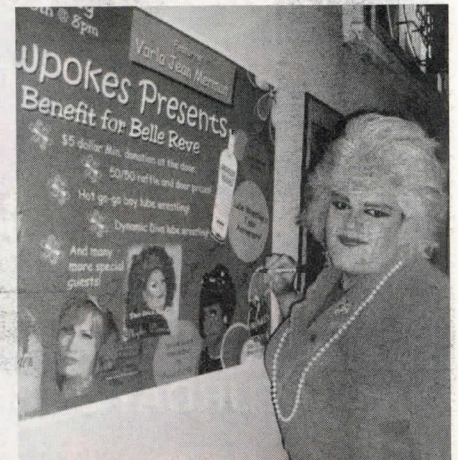
Referee Brian & assistant Hidea Salami



Men of Manwatch's Pepe & Ernest



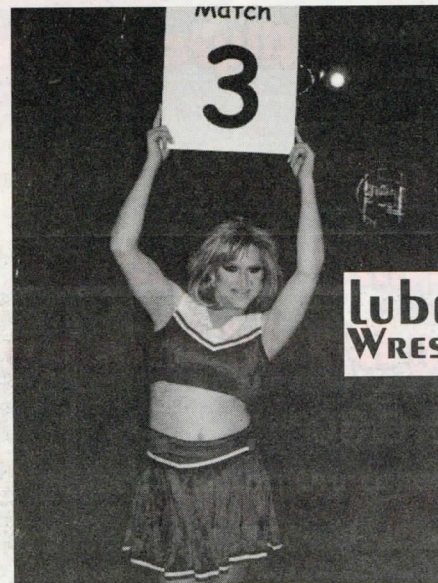
Ambush's Marsha & Sound Factory's Mark from Lafayette



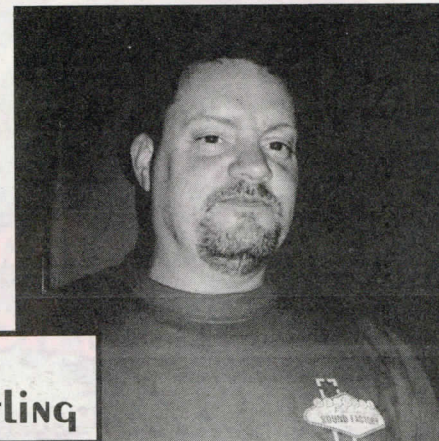
Delta Louise Carter signs the auction poster



Diva Wrestlers Delta Louise Carter & Phyllis Denmark



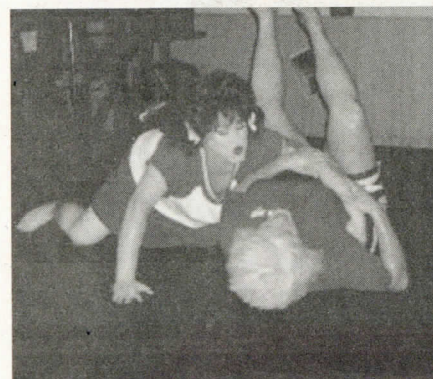
Cheerleader Brandi



Sound Factory's John Gilliland from Lafayette



SDGM XXXII Donnie Jay & Phyllis



Phyllis lays out Delta



Diva Wrestlers Savanna DeLorean & Varla Jean Merman w/Referee Brian



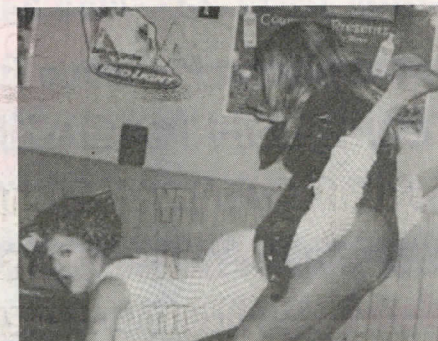
John shows off Sound Factory's slogan



King Cake Queen Savanna DeLorean performs



Referee Brian, hunky wrestlers Paul & Trent w/MC Bianca



Varla Jean gets hammered by Savanna



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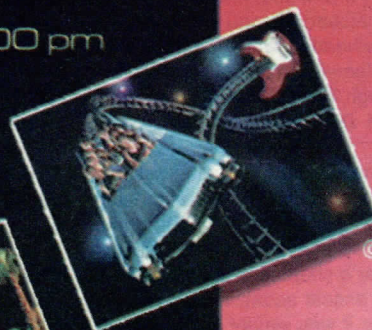
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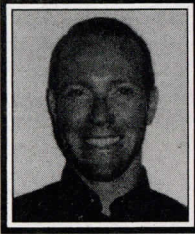
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TRODDING THE BOARDS

by Brian Sands
E-mail: bsnola@hotmail.com

bash at the Lab Theatre, Tulane University

The final line in Neil LaBute's *bash* is "There's never an answer." With recent random acts of violence in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Atlanta that's probably as good a reason as any for why such terrible things happen in this world as well as in these three related one-acts, subtitled *latterday plays*.

The *Latter-Day* refers to LaBute's characters' Mormon background as well as his own. I found the Mormon angle unnecessary, however, even distracting, as it really doesn't add any extra revelatory dimensions to these disturbing characters. Rather, "latter day" has more resonance as it applies to the amoral, post-Watergate world we inhabit.

For in LaBute's dark universe, people generally get away with the evil things they've done. Some have a conscience that torments them, others don't. What redeems this for an audience is the precise way in which LaBute wields his words creating stories that hypnotize and characters that get under the skin.

Director Carl Walker recently gave *bash* a striking New Orleans premiere at Tulane. Aided by Max Lawrence's moody lighting, Walker led his young actors to give fearless accounts of their nasty doings.

In *iphigenia in orem*, Ryan Davis' anguished face conveyed a father's culpability in his baby daughter's death; the O. Henryesque denouement raised a sad tale to tragic proportions. Though it's almost a bit unfair to ask a college student with relatively little life experience to enact such a bruising emotional portrait of a 30something, *iphigenia* was well done, extremely so.

Portraying characters closer to their own age in a *gaggle of saints*, Peter Steinau and Aiesha Volow got every sweet and foul bit out of two parallel accounts of a young couple's anniversary weekend in New York City. Without overdoing the homoerotic subtext, Steinau's edgy bonhomie creditably led up to a senseless act of violence in a charged, masterful performance. Volow matched Steinau with a believably girly yet levelheaded rendering that never overplayed her blamelessness for her partner's evil doings. Though fine in Tulane's fall production of *Madame De Sade*, here Volow was unforgettable.

Only Jordana Fraider in the final section, *medea redux*, needed a little more forward thrust as she told of a tragically inappropriate relationship she had with her junior high school teacher. If Fraider's characterization was well thought out, the almost sedated performance that resulted from it was simply enervating. In a playlet where the title says it all, a 45 minute length just wasn't justified.

The Gulls at One Eyed Jacks

Those wacky *Running With Scissors* guys and gals are back with *The Gulls*, Ryan Landry's send-up of Alfred Hitchcock's avian thriller, *The Birds*.

Watching it, I was of two minds. As just an audience member, this was fun, silly stuff, as enjoyable a way to spend a weekend evening in da Quarter as you could ask for.

As I discerning (ahem) critic, I must be a bit more tempered in my enthusiasm which is a bummer since I've had the pleasure of working with Director Richard Read at DramaRama and count a number of gulls in this flock among my friends.

First the good news. *The Gulls* is much wittier than *Running With Scissors*' previous effort from Landry, the Tennessee Williams send-up *Pussy on the House*. And following last fall's *Bad Seed*, they seem to be moving

away from their trailer trash drag mode, a genre whose appeal was quickly becoming exhausted.

Read and Flynn De Marco have directed with audacious imagination whether taking us on a drive through the Quarter, getting a moveable bed on stage or creating the illusion of hundreds of birds. They've also made the script French Quarter-centric with delicious digs at Chris Owens, Blanche DuBois (which not everyone seemed to get) and, especially, Jackie Clarkson.

De Marco, in the Tippi Hedren role of Melanie Daniels, makes a svelte appealing blond with a deep-seated streak of passion just below the surface and, when confronted by a technical glitch, proves himself to be a sharp ad libber. The luscious Brian Peterson returns in one of his patented tough-gal-with-a-heart-of-mush roles; together, he and De Marco play so well off of each other they're like the Julie Andrews and Carol Burnett of the Vieux Carré. And Jim Jeske is almost unrecognizable as the termagant who Melanie hopes to have as her mother-in-law, the best he's been in intimidating drag.

Now, alas, my reservations. *The Gulls* starts off promisingly but Read and De Marco let the tension slacken in a way that is anathema to Hitchcockian suspense. By the end, we hardly give a hoot as to whom lives or dies. The Dancing Gulls of Pandora Gastelum and Rod Lemaire were a cute touch to cover scene changes, but had they been more in sync and their routines more pointed in their parody of various dance styles, these interludes would've contributed to, rather than taken away from, the requisite momentum. (For the record, Lemaire was the more energized and focused of the two.)

While the aforementioned Quarter references were wholly welcome, where were the digs at Nagin and his parking meters and garbage cans? Why must we get just a generic real estate agent when we have our own marvelous Margarita Bergen, darling? And why, with its validly anti-Bush stance, was there not stuff about the Arctic Wildlife Refuge or whatever the Bushies' most recent crime against nature happened to be? (Why, for that matter, must we get a parody of *The Birds*, a wonderful movie but hardly in the forefront of our current national psyche? But that's another matter.)

With a production as obviously satirical as *The Gulls*, the actors' constant winking and nudging as though an audience doesn't get it, is unnecessary and just cheapens the show. De Marco is the worst perpetrator of this as his Melanie hardly seems the type to childishly stick out her tongue. Perhaps this was meant to be interpreted as a Brechtian distancing effect but certainly there are more subtle and sophisticated ways to achieve this.

De Marco and Read also ignore some of the script's own dictates. Peterson's character is described as fat and ugly, albeit by kids to whom anyone over 25 is old and anyone over 110 pounds is fat. Still, even to a child, Peterson with his well-coiffed hair and chic outfits, would likely come off as, at best, attractive and, at worst, a bit zaftig. With Peterson's unlimited acting and make-up/hair/couturier talents, a truly "fat and ugly" portrayal might have been even more interesting than what we got.

Among the other gulls, Jack Long was fine in a variety of roles yet what was going on with his homophobic sheriff with a too wide-ranging knowledge of leather, hankies and Second Skin? Assuming this satirized a character in the movie, for those of us who haven't seen it in a while, this didn't really pay off. As Melanie's love interest—Rod Taylor's role—Nathan Martin, a newcomer to the *Scissors* company, was not as polished as the others but gamely did what

was required of him.

Whatever. Perhaps there's some deep, hidden Ludlamesque meaning deconstructing gender roles and our approach to the environment in *The Gulls*, but, oh, never mind. Leave your inner critic at home and go and have fun.

Jason Graae at the Blue Room

After a nearly 20 year hiatus, the Blue Room in the Fairmont Hotel came back to life as a soigné cabaret venue with four performances the first weekend in April by the multi-talented Jason Graae. He sings, he does shtik, he even plays the oboe...and beautifully at that!

From the start of his act, when Graae transforms *Chicago's All I Care About Is Love* into *All I Care About Is Me*, it's clear that this Broadway/television/cabaret virtuoso has an exaggerated sense of self. And why not when you're nakedly putting yourself on the line in front of large audiences? Fortunately, Graae's healthy ego is matched by an equally healthy sense of humor and self-deprecation.

Graae's show serves as a smorgasbord "Intro to Jason". We're treated to fun stuff like his audition for the leprechaun's voice in the Lucky Charms cereal ads, a cute send-up of Sonheim tunes and a dead-on impression of Mandy Patinkin. But one can surmise from his more introspective numbers that he's a sweetie whose heart has been hurt one too many times; now the humor covers the pain.

For those of you who missed this gifted entertainer who can camp it up with the best of 'em, shame on you. You'll have a chance to redeem yourself, however, if you attend the New Orleans Opera Association's production of *The Merry Widow* on April 14 and 16 in which Graae will be featured as Njegus. In the meantime, if you happen to see him in the Quarter, ask him if he's Harry Shearer's younger brother. The resemblance is uncanny.

Siegfried at the Mahalia Jackson Theater for the Performing Arts

The New Orleans Opera Association continued its presentation of Richard Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen* as it gave powerful life to the third opera in the cycle, *Siegfried*.

Clocking in at five hours, including intermissions, *Siegfried* got off to a slow start but I'd blame Wagner for that; the necessary exposition at the beginning did not inspire him to write his finest music. Once we got to the final section of Act One, in which the hero Siegfried squares off with the misshapen Mime who raised him, *Siegfried* became gripping theater.

The evening featured superb singing. New Orleans was fortunate to obtain Jon Frederic West, perhaps the leading Siegfried of our day, for the title role. Though no one will ever mistake this 50something singer for the 17 year old the libretto calls for, his actorly conceptualization of the role convinced us of his youthful ardor and slowly awakening comprehension of the larger world. (He'd been leading a rather sheltered life thusfar.) West displayed excellent musicianship throughout, accompanying the orchestra on the anvil as he hammered out his sword, and a firm but sweet sounding, pitch perfect voice that was as powerful at the end of the opera as at the beginning five hours earlier.

Clayton Brainerd's commanding bass-baritone reminded you that his now powerless Wotan was once the *über-god*. Native New Orleanian Anthony Laciura's insinuating tenor was perfect for his skulking, snaky Mime. Matching Laciura in the smaller role of Mime's brother Alberich was Harry Dworchak with an equally detailed portrait of driven greed and desperation. And Jeanne-Michèle Charbonnet was in glorious voice for the final 30 minute love duet with Siegfried. Robert Lyall conducted superbly.

Dejan Milandinovic's staging was good enough but the overall mix of Erhard Rom's more or less traditional set with oversized photographs in the background of mountains, skies and forests didn't really add much to the produc-

tion. The only truly wrong note, however, was the death of the dragon Fafner which seemed to have been imported from a second rate amusement park. Otherwise, bravo to our opera company and on to *Götterdämmerung!*

Harvey at North Star Theatre

Mary Chase's *Harvey*, that staple of community theater involving a six foot tall invisible rabbit, recently appeared at the North Star Theatre in Mandeville. Having never seen this Oscar-winning warhorse before, I thoroughly enjoyed it as well as my trip to the burgeoning North Shore on a lovely Sunday afternoon.

If Lori Bennett's unobtrusive direction failed to elicit all the laughs in this "live-and-let-live" ideological comedy, it was nonetheless light-handed and well-paced. She ably balanced the script's farcical elements against its gentler ones.

John Carambat as Elwood P. Dowd may not have had the full measure of Jimmy Stewart's charm but, well, who does? Still, if his performance didn't stray too far from the Stewart template, he conveyed the decency and amiability needed to make Dowd an agreeable eccentric rather than a wacko.

As Dowd's exasperated sister who's beginning to think she sees Harvey herself, Linda Wendle gave a fine performance by community theater standards as did Debbie Carambat, Kenneth Faherty, Janine Manguno and Malcolm Maginnis, Jr. in smaller roles. This is not to damn them with faint praise; though a certain amount of detail and depth escaped them, each pinpointed the emotional heart of their characters and portrayed them truly, no small achievement. Only Tara F. Smith as Dowd's niece was egregiously bad, more *Charmette* than *Mandeville*.

Some performances, however, transcended their setting. As a burly hospital attendant, Rex Badeaux brought a lunatic charm to this self-styled lady's man. Steven Marlborough's pompous, hotheaded chief doctor expertly sputtered with indignation at the idiocy he was forced to put up with; faced with the possibility of Harvey's reality, he became a man on the edge of a nervous breakdown. Anyone looking for a true farceur, whether for Feydeau or Orton, should consider giving Marlborough a call. And Taffy Maginnis hit just the right note of befuddlement in her one scene as a haughty matron.

What with complimentary coffee and yummy desserts before the show, anyone looking for a brief respite from the South Shore should check out North Star's future productions. And you don't even need a passport to get there!

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre at the Mahalia Jackson Theater for the Performing Arts

On April 1, the *Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre* returned to New Orleans after a four year absence with two new works and one of its repertoire's canonical ones.

Love Stories (2004), choreographed by Judith Jamison with Robert Battle and Rennie Harris to music by Stevie Wonder, began with a phenomenal opening solo but then morphed into unremarkable mostly hip-hop/American Bandstand style moves. Though playful and exuberant, *Love Stories*, despite its title and exquisite dancing, was not emotionally involving and I failed to see the connection to Wonder's music, represented by some of his lesser known compositions.

David Parsons' *Shining Star* (2004) set to Earth, Wind & Fire's music, however, took the moves one would expect to see in a club when the legendary R&B/soul group's music comes on and elevated them with balletic/modern dance movements to give them a refined sexiness. With the help of Ann Hould-Ward's whitewash costumes—so memorable that I can best refer to certain sections as the *Dance of the Long*

[continued on Main-29]

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Ambush Restaurant Guide
Pensacola Beach, FL [850]

Flounder's Chowder House, 800 Quietwater Beach Rd., serves Gulf grouper, mahi-mahi, Atlantic salmon, red snapper and yellow fin tuna from their special oak fired wood grille. In addition to huge seafood selections, the restaurant also serves choice Black Angus steaks and chicken entrees. Open Mon.-Thurs. 11am-12midnight, Fri.-Sat. 11am-2am, & Sun. 10am-12midnight. For more info, call 932.2003.

Baton Rouge, LA [225]

El Rio Grande, 8334 Airline Hwy., boasts original Mexican food, fajitas and burritos since 1962. Call 926.1348 for more info.

Gonzales, LA [225]

Careaux's Mexican Grill and Bar, 705 Burnside Ave., is noted as "the best little restaurant this side of the Rio Grande." This eatery serves enchiladas, chalupas, burriteauxs, taceauxs, quesadillas, fajitas, steaks and desserts. Open Mon.-Thurs. 11am-8pm, Fri.-Sat. 11am-9pm, closed Sundays. For more info call 647.0447.

New Orleans, LA [504]

Bywater Bar.B.Que/Lorenzo's Pizzeria, 3162 Dauphine, offers indoor or patio dining and delivery in the nearby area. Serving breakfast, lunch, dinner and weekend brunch, the restaurant is open 7 days, 6am-10pm Mon.-Fri. and 11am-10pm Sat. and Sun. Call 944.4445, 947.0000 or visit bywaterbarbq.com for more info.

Coffee, Friends and..., 2401 Burgundy St., is a charming, intimate coffee house and more in the heart of the Marigny. It offers fresh gourmet treats including homemade chicken or tuna salad, croissants, veggie or meat quiche, bagels, pastries and fab desserts along with your favorite hot coffees and cold brewed iced coffees. Open 7 days 7am-7pm, call 948.7401 for more details.

Deanie's Seafood, The Taste of Bucktown, 841 Iberville St. at Dauphine in the French Quarter is open Sun.-Thurs., 11am-10pm; Fri. & Sat., 11am-11pm. This eatery serves lunch specials Mon.-Fri., 11am-3pm, except holidays. Call 581.1316 or visit www.deanies.com for more info.

Deja Vu Restaurant & Bar, 400 Dauphine St., is open 24 hours a day to start your day or end your night. Breakfast is served anytime and delivery is available (except during high volume times). Call 523.1931 for further details.

House of Blues, 225 Decatur, is famous for soulful dining and Sunday Gospel Brunch w/ great entertainment. Hours: 11:30am-11pm Mon.-Thurs., 11:30am-midnight Fri. & Sat., 12noon-11pm Sun. Late night dining available. Reservations 529.2624.

Jack Dempsey's Restaurant, 738 Poland Ave., specializes in seafood and steak dinners. Seafood is served fried, broiled or steamed. The restaurant is open for lunch Tues.-Fri. 11am-1:30pm and for dinner Wed.-Thurs., 5-8:30pm, Fri., 5-9:30pm & Sat., 4-9:30pm. Call 943.9914 for more info.

Krystal, 116 Bourbon at Canal, 523.4030, is a favorite of locals and visitors alike for those needing fast food service including breakfast, lunch, dinner and late night. Open 24 hours, call 523.7777 for delivery to home, bar or office in the CBD and French Quarter.

Petunias, a Restaurant, 817 St. Louis St., serves Cajun, Creole, crepes and cocktails. Open 7 days, breakfast/lunch is served 8am-3pm, afternoon specials 3-6pm including sandwiches and salads, and dinner 3-11pm. For evening reservations, call 522.6440 or visit petuniasrestaurant.com for more info.

Quartermaster: The Nellie Deli, 1100 Bourbon St. is open 24 hours/7 days. Serving breakfast, lunch, dinner and a late night snack menu, the deli offers free delivery. Call 529.1416 to order.

Quarter Scene, 900 Rue Dumaine, serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. It was voted "best casual breakfast in the Quarter" in a recent *Zagat* Survey. Open daily, 8am-10pm. For more info., call 522.6533.

Ralph & Kacoo's Seafood Restaurant, 519 Toulouse St., serves fresh Louisiana seafood fried and broiled plus Black Angus steaks. Open daily Sun.-Thurs. 11am-10pm, Fri.-Sat. 11am-11pm. Info - 522.5226 or visit.

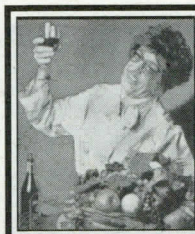
Royal Blend Coffee & Tea, 621 Royal St., 523.2716, is open 6:30am til late night daily serving breakfast, lunch, dinner and desserts. It's noted for its wonderful espresso/cappuccino and both hot and cold coffees and teas. Other locations include 222 Carondelet and 204 Metairie Rd.

Zydeque Cajun Barbeque, 808 Iberville St., boasts "it's music to you mouth!" You'll find some of the best smoked meats in the city. Call 565.5520 for reservations or info.

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COOKIN' WITH AUNTIE DEE

by Donnie Jay
 E-mail: auntiedee@bellsouth.net
 Photo@GrahamStudioOne.COM

In The Morning

Well hello again my little chickadees, and welcome to a new day. What a two weeks it has been. Spring has sprung, the Easter celebration and the Gay Easter Parade has come and gone. I understand that everything was just fabulous even though your Auntie Dee was unable to attend. I heard that the Big Diva herself was quite elegant in her rather sedate flaming orange outfit.

I myself was unable to attend as I was in bed with the Doctor. Well once the Doctor got up, I realized that I was faced with the dilemma of preparing him something to eat, and I immediately thought of you, my dear children. No, not that I wanted you to come over and eat with us, but rather I am sure that many of you have been faced with the same problem, what to serve someone so early in the morning. Well if you just want to get rid of him and send him on his way, just give him the left over change from the night before, and point him to the nearest Mickey Dees, and let him fend for himself. Then again, if you think this could be the start of something great, try one of the following breakfast ideas on him and see if it keeps him coming back for more.

QUICHE LORRAINE

- 1 prepared 9-inch piecrust, baked ay 400 degrees for about seven minutes
- 8 slices bacon, fried and crumbled
- 4 green onions chopped fine
- 2 cups shredded Swiss cheese, divided
- 1 cup whipping cream
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon ground red pepper
- 1/8 teaspoon ground white pepper
- 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg

Sprinkle the bacon, green onions and half of the Swiss cheese in the bottom of the piecrust. Whisk together the eggs and the next four ingredients: pour into piecrust, and sprinkle with the nutmeg and the remaining cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for thirty-five to forty minutes or until set, Let stand ten minutes, slice and serve.

MEXICAN SCRAMBLED EGGS

- 4 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 roma tomato, peeled, seeded and chopped
- 1/2 tablespoon finely chopped jalapeno pepper
- 1/2 tablespoon chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 tablespoon milk
- 1/8 teaspoon cumin
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- Dash of black pepper
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1/4 cup diced ham

Combine the first eight ingredients in a bowl, stirring well. Set aside. Melt butter in a large skillet over medium heat, add ham and cook two minutes stirring constantly. Add egg mixture. Cook without stirring until egg mixture starts to set on bottom. Draw a spatula across the bottom forming large curds. Continue cooking until eggs are firm, but still moist. Serve at once.

EGGS BENEDICT

- 2 English muffins split
- 2 tablespoons butter, softened
- 4 slices Canadian bacon, cooked
- 4 poached eggs
- Hollandaise sauce (recipe follows or use a mix)

Spread cut sides of muffins with butter. Broil 3 inches from the heat until lightly browned. Put a piece of Canadian bacon on each half of muffin half; top with poached egg, and cover

with Hollandaise sauce.

HOLLANDAISE SAUCE

- 3 egg yolks
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon ground red pepper
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/2 cup butter, cut into pieces

Whisk first three ingredients together in the top of a double boiler; gradually add lemon juice stirring constantly. Add one third of the butter to the egg mixture cooking over hot, not boiling, water, stirring constantly with a wire whisk until butter melts. Add another third of the butter repeating the procedure. As the mixture thickens add the last of the butter and stir until smooth. Serve at once.

PLAIN OMELET

- 4 large eggs
- 2 tablespoons water
- Dash of white pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon butter

Whisk all ingredients except butter until just blended. Melt butter in an eight-inch omelet pan or heavy skillet. Pour egg mixture into the pan. As eggs set gently lift side of omelet with a spatula allowing eggs to run underneath. When all the eggs are set fold omelet in half and serve.

If you wish to fill the omelet you may use any of the following ingredients singularly or in any combination. Just remember the more items you add cut the amount of each to compensate.

- 2 slices of bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 2 tablespoons sautéed mushrooms
- 2 tablespoons shredded cheese
- 1 tablespoon fresh herbs

The following are great brunch or breakfast dishes when you are expecting six to eight guests. The first one requires assembling the night before and is oven baked an hour before serving.

HAM & BROCCOLI STRATA

- 12 slices bread, crusts removed
- 1 (10 ounce package) chopped broccoli, thawed and drained
- 2 cups diced cooked ham
- 6 large eggs, slightly beaten
- 3 1/4 cups milk
- 1 tablespoon dried minced onion
- 1/4 teaspoon dried mustard
- 3 cups (12 ounces) shredded sharp Cheddar cheese

Cut bread into small cubes. Layer bread cubes, broccoli and ham in a buttered 13x9 inch baking dish. Combine eggs and remaining ingredients, stir well. Pour into dish; cover and refrigerate at least eight hours. To bake, remove from refrigerator and allow to stand for thirty minutes. Bake, uncovered, at 325 degrees for an hour. Serve hot.

FARMERS OMELET CASSEROLE

- 3 cups frozen cubed hash brown potatoes
- 1 cup chopped green peppers, divided
- 1/3 cup chopped onion
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 18 large eggs, beaten
- 2 1/3 cups chopped cooked ham
- 1 1/4 cups chopped tomato, divided
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 1/2 cups (6 ounces) shredded Monterey cheese

Cook potatoes, 3/4 cup green peppers and onion in oil in a large skillet over medium high heat, stirring constantly, eight minutes or until

[continued on Main-28]

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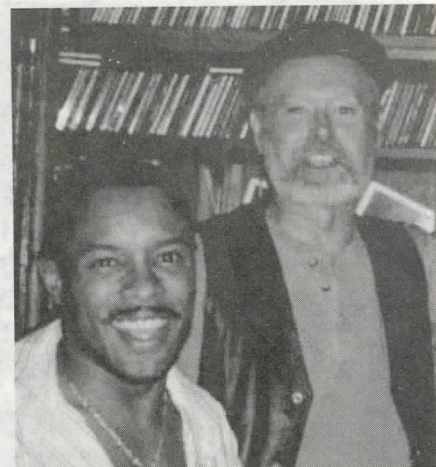
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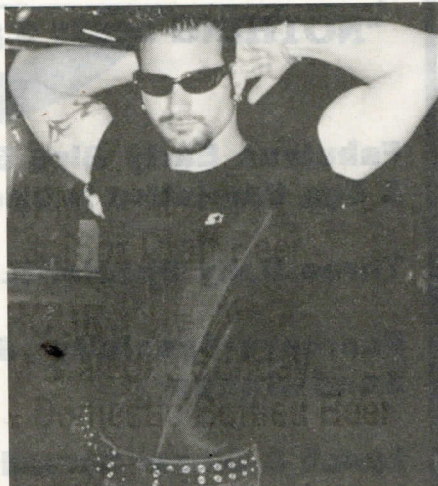
Starlight's Andy



DJ Reb & Starlight's CW



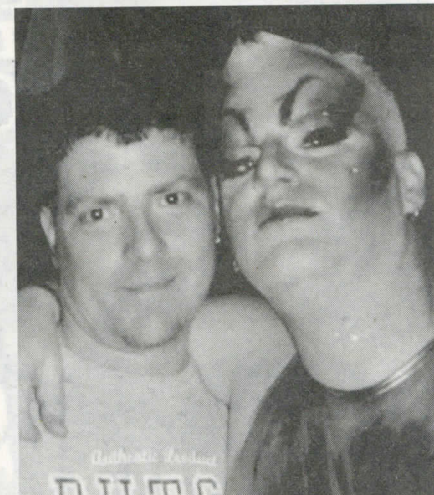
SDGM XXXI Rusty LaRoux & SDGM XXIV Wayne White



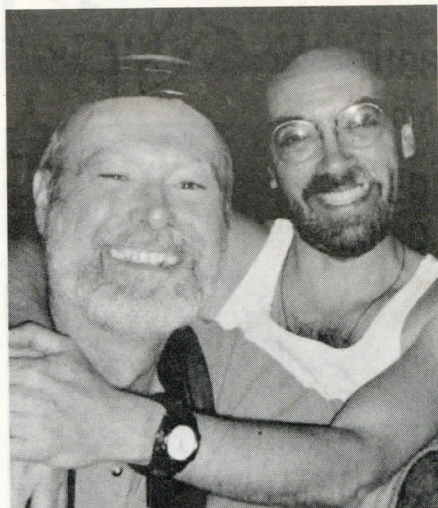
Oatmeal



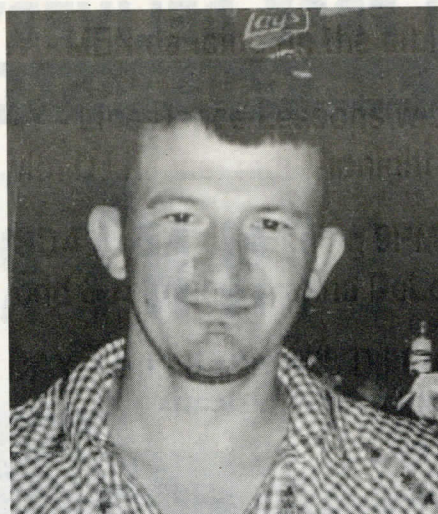
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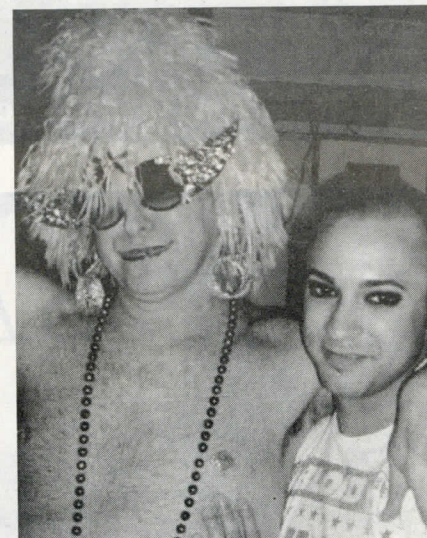
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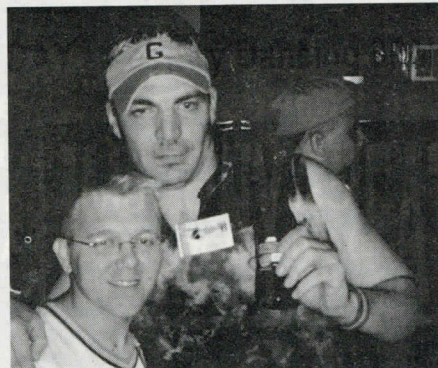
Margaret & Head Ink's Donovan



Shelly Pearl & Bryan



Normand, Josh, Kay & Greg



Corey & Good Friends' Joey



Crack Whore Queen II Kabrina Watson



Irish Mike & Josh



Art & Frank



(front) Shelly Pearl & Bud; (rear) Bryan, Mike & Greg



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Past Miss Gay New Orleans America's: 2004 Coca, 2003 Amber Nicole Welch, 2002 Dominique DeLorean, 2001 Jada Alexander, 2000 Sha'nyia Ellis Narcisse, 1999 Asya Alexander, 1996 Scarlet O'Hara Butler & 2005 Victoria Lynn Denmark



Winner/Miss Gay New Orleans America '06 Mercedes Ellis Loreal



The new officers of the Krewe of Amon Ra show off their Mayoral certificate: Tres. Paul Davis, Function Lt. Nick Olivares, VP Jerry Meiss, Ball Lt. Richard Hullender, Pres. Jay Cooper, Sec. Kyle Scott, Special Lt. Gary Delaune & Capt. Tip Varnadore/4 Seasons



Kevin, Godfrey and Jim were all dripping in pearls at the Golden Lantern after the Official Gay Easter Parade.

Ambush PAPAZZI



Miss Gay America Raquel Chevallier



1st Alternate/Miss Gay New Orleans America '06 Legacy Lopez



King & Queen Amon Ra XL Randall Brown & Ricky Callais/Amon Ra Ball Video Showing/4 Seasons/Metairie



New Orleans Bear & Bear Trapper Social Club Bartenders Sonny and Tibby were busy dispensing the suds at their First Friday Beer Bust/Phoenix.



Miss Gay New Orleans America '96 Scarlet O'Hara Butler receives special award from Miss Gay New Orleans America '03 Amber Nicole Welch



Miss Gay New Orleans America '04 Coca (front) & the Oz Divas: Lisa Beaumann, Teryl-Lynn Foxx & Bianca Del Rio



Bartender Brad/Amon Ra Ball Video Showing/4 Seasons/Metairie



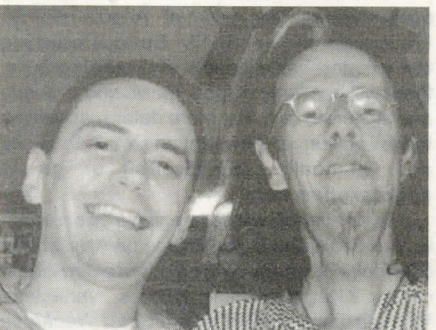
Bears' Pres. Jerry Meis gets help with lube on his wiener from Nino Clark at the club's First Friday Beer Bust/Phoenix.



Miss Gay Louisiana America Dominique DeLorean



Newly crowned Miss Gay New Orleans America Mercedes Ellis Loreal



Author Michael Halloway Perronne at his "A Time Before Me" book-signing with Otis Fennell at Faubourg Marigny Arts and Books



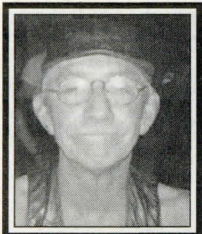
Lions Inn Bed and Breakfast's Floyd McLamb and Stuart Anthony are the new owners of the landmark Bywater and legendary restaurant, Elizabeth's.



Miss Gay New Orleans America '05 Victoria Lynn Denmark



New Orleans own Miss Gay America Raquel Chevallier



SHERWOOD'S FOREST

by Wally Sherwood
E-mail: wsherwoodforest@aol.com

COULD HOT OVER-40 JIM THOMPSON be headed for the International Mr. Leather Contest again? It could happen and, of course, our best wishes go with him. The first stepping stone was winning the Mr. Prime Beef Contest at the Phoenix bar, which automatically puts him in contention for Mr. Louisiana Leather during Southern Decadence on Sept. 3 at the Marigny Theatre.

And if he prevails there, he does have a second chance for the world title. Jim last competed in the contest in 1984, representing the B.J. Bar while living in Chicago. Meanwhile, he keeps collecting accolades like a string of so many Carnival beads.

The New Iberia landscaper finished as first alternate to Miss Lower Quarter Lantern Trash at the Golden Lantern, then went shopping and checked out with the Miss Upper Schwegmann Heights groceries at the Phoenix. Back in 1977, the versatile guy even competed in the Miss Gay America Pageant in Little Rock as Miss Memphis.

His very worthy runner-up as Mr. Prime Beef was Eric Sins, who is certainly a role model for "hot men over 40," as the contest

requires. A devoted father, he continues to live with his 19-year-old college student son, Joshua, in Covington. Eric exerts a positive influence on Joshua, who is very supportive of his father's lifestyle. Sins is a registered nurse at a New Orleans hospital, where he specializes in nephrology.

Eric is an active supporter of the community and was out front most recently in behalf of the Official Gay Easter Parade and Food for Friends. Mr. Prime Beef was his first outing in seeking a title, but with a near-win under his belt, he plans to go for Mr. Marigny Leather V on Aug. 7 at The Phoenix, again an AIDS benefit for Buzzy's Boys and Girls.

Artist Roscoe was only one of the four outstanding judges for the Mr. Prime Beef Contest, being joined by Kevin Allman, Melvin Knight and Wayne Sheffield with Gary Glitter serving as tallymaster. Phyllis Denmark, *Ambush's* "Big Diva," again was mistress of ceremonies, fielding some very difficult questions for the contestants.

GOOBYE TO A BYWATER TRADITION: The bad news is that Joe and Heidi Trull have closed their Elizabeth's eatery, a long-time Bywater landmark at 601 Gallier St. and supporter of such community events as the Mirliton Festival.

The couple threw a farewell party for friends and patrons on Mar. 27, which was also their Seventh Wedding Anniversary, before moving back to Heidi's native South Carolina. There they hope to open a similar Elizabeth's operation near Charleston or Anderson.

The good news is that two devoted regulars, Floyd McLamb and Stuart Devony, have purchased the popular restaurant. They currently own and operate a bed and breakfast in the Faubourg Marigny, the Lions Inn at 2517 rue Chartres. "Our plan is to keep what Heidi had and hopefully to expand on it in the future," said Floyd, who owned the Coffee Pot in the French Quarter for many years.

He and Stuart explained that they plan to be open for dinner by fall, if they can get all the remodeling done while being closed for the month of August. They plan to keep the funky feel of the restaurant, but with a brand-new kitchen, upstairs lounge and plenty of air-conditioning for dining comfort.

Elizabeth's topped the list for the Best Breakfast by critic Brett Anderson in his "100 Great Places to Eat" in Lagniappe's Dinner Guild on Apr. 3 in the New Orleans *Times-Picayune*. "I've had fried catfish strips with my eggs, a fried soft-shell crab with my country ham and hollandaise on all sorts of things," Anderson wrote. "And I never, ever go without ordering some praline bacon, the most devilish sinful local delicacy this side of deep-fried po-boys."

NATCH FOR LOUISIANA IN NYC: This is the opening week for the delightful Louisiana tale of strong-willed women, *Steel Magnolias*, at the Lyceum Theatre in the Big Apple. The play was one of off-Broadway's biggest hits, opening in 1987 and running for more than a thousand performances.

The latest addition to the cast is Rebecca Gayheart, the "Noxzema Gal" in the skin-care advertisements. She will play bride-to-be Shelby, the role portrayed by Julia Roberts in the 1989 movie version of Robert Harling's play. Besides Roberts, the film also starred Sally Field, Dolly Parton and Shirley MacLaine.

Included in the Broadway cast being directed by Jason Moore is former New Orleans actress Delta Burke as Truvy, the owner of the beauty salon in Natchitoches. Christine Ebersole is playing M'Lynn, Shelby's mother. Frances Sternhagen is appearing as Clairee, Marsha

Mason as Ouiser and Lily Rabe as Annelle.

Palm Sunday was a banner night on the tube, as both *The Simpsons* and *Desperate Housewives* took up coming out. The lesbian Simpson turned out to be Patty, one half of the twins the Homer had dubbed the "grotesome twosome. Over on ABC, Bree's son Andrew, played by Shawn Pyfrom, got his first Gay kiss.

And be aware (or beware) that *Reefer Madness: The Movie Musical* is coming to your home theatre on Apr. 16. Inspired by the infamous 1936 anti-marijuana propaganda film, Showtime's first musical is a tongue-in-cheek raucous comedy about clean-cut kids who fall into a twisted, hilarious downward spiral of reefer, sex and mayhem. One of the most complicated shows ever filmed for television, it contains 16 musical sequences plus large complex dance numbers.

The entire cast of stars; headed by Alan Cumming, the Tony-winning emcee of *Cabaret*, and Steven Weber, who played the title role of

Jeffrey in the 1995 movie version; all display their real singing voices. *Reefer Madness* premieres on Apr. 16 at 7, 9 and 11pm, with encores Apr. 18 at 8pm and Apr. 20 at 7pm.

GAY RIGHTS PASTOR DIES IN TEXAS: Honoring its pioneering civil rights minister and pastor emeritus, St. Matthew United Church of Christ held memorial services on Mar. 13 for the Rev. Roland Pantermuehl. Retiring from his New Orleans pulpit in 1977, he moved to New Braunfels, TX, where he passed away at 93. He led the church on S. Carrollton Ave. for 20 years, opening its doors to both black and white worshippers in the face of hateful opposition and death threats in the early 1960s. He then extended his theological hospitality to embrace Gay Christians, and helped the national United Church of Christ to develop that policy of inclusion.

Charles Wayne West, a former cook on an oil rig, has died of complications of AIDS and liver disease at Lazarus House. Born in Houston, he was 61 and a member of Tau House Roman Catholic Community in the French Quarter, where a memorial mass was celebrated on Mar. 19.

Sadly also on the same day, another mass was said at Our Lady Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church for Ralph Alex Legaux III, who died at age 38 of a stroke at Baptist Hospital in Jackson. He was a native of the Crescent City and is survived by his companion, Rick Dickerson. Unfortunately, only two days earlier, a two-alarm fire in the Faubourg Marigny hit the residence where Dickerson was staying, killing two dogs that he had brought with him from Jackson for the funeral.

N'AWLINS LOVES PARADE PARTIES: President Katie Rivers and other members of the Krewe of Mwindo honored captain James Swire and Grand Marshal of the Official Gay Easter Parade, along with Co-GM Lisa Beaumann, with a reception at the den in eastern New Orleans. Serving as officers with Katie and James are vice president Larry Jones, treasurer Arnold James, secretary Cory Micheals, special lieutenant Menard Johnson and board member at-large Sophie Sylve.

Actor Joseph Gannascoli, a former cook at Commander's Palace, served as Grand Marshal of the Italian-American Marching Club parade through the French Quarter on St. Joseph's Day. He hit stardom for his Vito Spatafore role on HBO's *The Sopranos* and was in town for the filming of *All the King's*



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Men, spending much of his downtime in Faubourg Marigny bars and restaurants.

Chris Owens, a staunch supporter of Armeinius, presided as Grand Duchess over the 22nd Annual French Quarter Easter Parade. The krewe introduced their Inaugural Crown Patrons at this year's award-winning *The Bug Ball*. Emerald supporters are the Chris Owens Club and Gennifer Flowers' Kelso Club, and Amethyst patrons are Ethan Allen Furniture, Green Parrot Designs and Jeannie McKeogh Interiors.

Coffee, Friends and..., which had a magnificent St. Joseph's Altar for the second year in a row, hosted another successful Bunny Hop through the Marigny. Winning the Best of the Best at the grand finale at Cowpokes were all those flowering Pot Heads planted by The Friendly Bar. And Bywater.B.Que, which has rolled out a selection of new \$7 dinner specials, raised over \$4,500 for Buzzy's Boys and Girls at the brunch before the start of the Easter Parade.

Meanwhile, the Carnival TV special, *Brad Paisley's Muddi Gras*, including a performance in historic Preservation Hall, finally made it to the CMT network over a month after Fat Tuesday. The title comes from Paisley's Top 10 2004 album, *Mud on the Tires*. And the release of Better Than Ezra's new *Before the Robots* has been rescheduled for Apr. 28.

BEARS, BIKERS AND LOTS OF BULL: Billed as the largest indoor motorcycle show in the whole USA, the Louisiana Bike Expo will roar into the Superdome on Apr. 29-May 1. The Orange County Choppers will be back with their themed bikes, plus daredevil riders and live performers. All the scoop at louisianabikeexpo.com.

You can be a part of the longest-running prison rodeo in the nation at Angola near St. Francisville on Apr. 16-17. Besides watching the inmates battle beasts and bucking bulls, there will be plenty of food, music and a prison arts and crafts fair. For more details, as well as the fall edition of the event on Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, call 225.655.2030 or go to angolarodeo.com.

Liza Minnelli will be bringing a bit of Broadway to Biloxi and Beau Rivage on Apr. 22 and Billy Idol will be back on the heels of a new album on Apr. 21 at the House of Blues. Varla Jean Merman's stint as *Girl with a Pearl Necklace* ends on Apr. 16 at Le Chat Noir.

The Festival International de Louisiane, the acclaimed and largest outdoor Francophone

[continued on Main-34]

cookin' w/auntie dee ...from M-24

tender. Combine potato mixture, eggs, ham, 1 cup tomatoes, salt and pepper in a large bowl; stir well. Pour mixture into a lightly greased 13 x 9 inch baking dish. Bake uncovered in a 325 degree oven for forty minutes or until golden. Top with remaining green pepper and tomato. Sprinkle evenly with cheese. Bake an additional five minutes or until cheese melts.

ITALIAN FRITTA

- 1 pound red potatoes, cubed and cooked
- 1/2 pound mild Italian sausage, cooked and crumbled
- 1 green pepper sliced into strips
- 1 1/2 cups purple onions, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, sliced thin
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 medium tomatoes, peeled and diced
- 2 tablespoons parsley, chopped fine
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground pepper
- 8 large eggs, beaten
- 3 tablespoons water
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Cook green pepper, onion and garlic in oil and butter in a twelve-inch ovenproof skillet over medium-high heat, stirring constantly, until tender. Add potatoes, tomatoes, sausage and the next five ingredients; cook an additional two minutes, stirring. Combine eggs and water; pour over mixture in skillet stirring gently to blend. Cover, reduce heat to low, and cook eight to ten minutes or until eggs are set. Sprinkle with cheese. Place skillet under broiler; broil five to six inches from heat for about five minutes or until cheese melts and is golden brown. Cut into wedges and serve at once.

Well my little ones, that does it for this week. Hope you are all enjoying this wonderful weather and I sincerely hope you can hook up with that one special person, if you are so inclined. If by chance you don't want to and insist on trying out everything and everyone who comes your way, just remember to play safe.

You may contact me at donniejay@hotmail.com or by writing me care of the paper. Hope to see you out and about soon. Remember the festival season is upon us so get out and enjoy all the city has to offer you.



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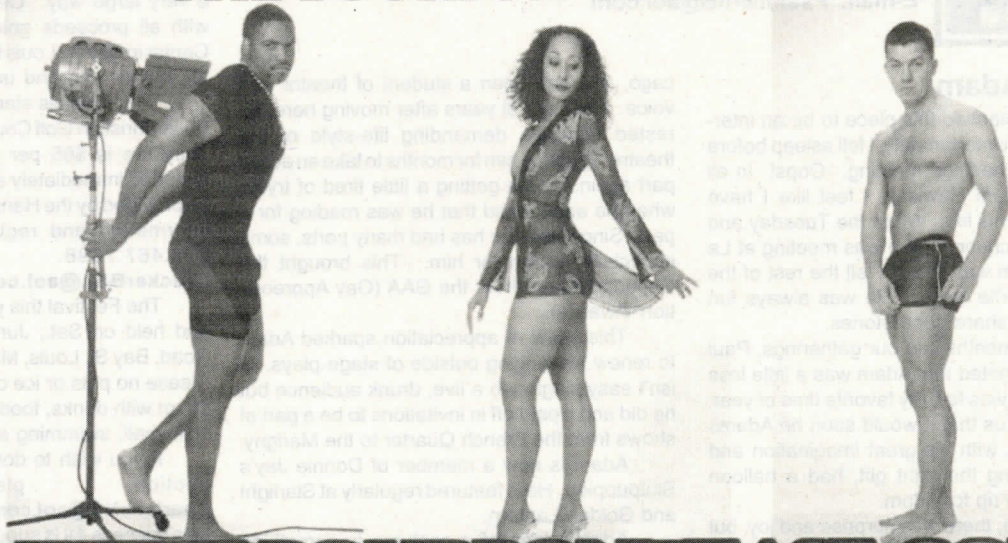
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trodding the boards ...from M-22

Coats or Dance of the Open Shirts—Parsons' choreography perfectly captured the music's essence transforming it from the aural to the visual.

(It should be noted that, in contrast to my judgment, my companion for the evening felt the opposite, preferring *Love Stories* to *Shining*

Star, he found the choreography of the former to be surprising and exciting, the latter, predictable. Go figure.)

The program concluded with *Revelations*, Alvin Ailey's masterful interpretation of traditional spirituals and gospel music, which remains, as it has for 45 years, a modern classic, magnificently danced.

Jesus Christ Superstar at the Westwego Performing Arts Theatre

Though *Jesus Christ Superstar* does not rank high on my list of all-time great musicals, I am no Andrew Lloyd Webber-hater; *Evita* and *Cats* are two of

my favorites. Having not seen *J.C.S.* for many years, I was willing to give it a chance when the Jefferson Performing Arts Society followed up its well-received *Chicago* with it.

Oy, why did I schlep to the West Bank for such a production that hit a level of badness that can only be achieved by the clueless leading the misguided. Or was this a parody of *J.C.S.* in the

[continued on Main-30]



sappho psalm

by Toni J.P. Pizanie
E-mail: Psalmwrite@aol.com

Madam Adam

I had planned this piece to be an interview. Unfortunately, I fell asleep before our scheduled meeting. Oops! In all fairness to Adam Hawkins, I feel like I have known him all his life. When the Tuesday and Thursday Luncheon Group was meeting at La Peniche, Adam was (do not tell the rest of the staff) our favorite waiter. He was always fun and willing to share good stories.

Several months into our gatherings, Paul Killgore and I noted that Adam was a little less flamboyant. It was fall, my favorite time of year, and John told us that it would soon be Adams birthday. Paul, with his great imagination and knack for giving the right gift, had a balloon bouquet made up for Adam.

Of course, there was surprise and joy, but that also started a warm and close friendship that has lasted through job changes, good and bad boyfriends, several plays and the beginning of his drag performances. I learned of Adam's sad estrangement from his family that lead to a deep friendship between he and his sister. He has invited his sister to move to New Orleans some time this summer. If she is anything like her brother, I am sure we will embrace her like one of our own as we have with Adam.

Our schedules don't allow us to visit as often as we'd like since he left La Peniche for Clover Grill. However, I can count on Adam to drop by in the early evenings on his way home from work and to always answer my phone messages.

Adam moved to New Orleans from Chi-

cago. He had been a student of theatre and voice. For several years after moving here, he rested from the demanding life-style of the theatre. I pushed him for months to take an active part again. I was getting a little tired of trying when he announced that he was reading for a part. Since then, he has had many parts, some especially written for him. This brought the Cheridon Award from the GAA (Gay Appreciation Awards).

This show of appreciation sparked Adam to renew his singing outside of stage plays. It isn't easy singing to a live, drunk audience but he did and it paid off in invitations to be a part of shows from the French Quarter to the Marigny.

Adam is now a member of Donnie Jay's Slutpuppies. He is featured regularly at Starlight and Golden Lantern.

Adam's idea of a costume is something large, feathery and that makes him feel happy. You will not always see him with a wig as he is not always a female impersonator. A wig and fake tits do not an entertainer make, and he knows that. Adam goes with what makes him happy so that he can make others happy.

He is a huge fan of all the queens that have gone before him, and that is part of his secret, appreciation for others. I hope you will watch the pages of *Ambush* to see where he is performing next. I promise you will not be disappointed by my friend Adam.

Supporting Lesbian Events

There are two important events coming up in June. I wanted to let you know early enough so that you can

mark your calendars. June is a very busy month especially now that Pride is returning to June in keeping with the rest of the Gay World.

Charlene is once again holding Pride with a Purpose. This group came together in 2000 to support women with breast cancer. They decided to make a difference, and they have in a very large way. Celebrating their fifth year with all proceeds going to Hancock Medical Center in Bay St. Louis to provide mammograms for low income and uninsured women.

The activities start with a golf scramble at Pass Christian Golf Course on Fri., June 17. The entry fee is \$65 per person. Prizes will be awarded immediately after the event. Food will be provided by the Hancock Medical Center. For information and registration, call Linda at 228.467.7298 or write to LTuckerBSL@aol.com.

The Festival this year will be only one day and held on Sat., June 18 at 1205 Meadow Road, Bay St. Louis, MS. The admission is \$10. Please no pets or ice chests. The fun starts at 10am with drinks, food, booths, entertainment, volleyball, swimming and other activities.

If you wish to donate items for the silent auction, please contact CharleneNO@aol.com. The event can only be a success if it is supported by the community. Please get a group of your friends together and attend this enjoyable and worthwhile event.

The next event that is a must for Lesbians is also a first. The first convention of the Golden Crown Literary Society will be held June 24-26 here in New Orleans. This is a natural selection since the City has spawned many outstanding Lesbian writers. If you or someone you know appreciates a great book that reflects your life-style, please plan on attending this convention.

At this exceptional weekend event, you will be able to meet your favorite authors, discover new one, attend stimulating seminars, workshops and panels. You can browse the book selections for sale and mingle with authors, publishers, distributors and others like yourselves.

This will also be the first annual Golden

top honors, with Chantel Reshae, from Orlando, FL, qualifying as first alternate.

After only two hours of sleep, it was off to the airport to head down to Dallas for the anxiously awaited Miss Gay Southern Elegance, held at The Round Up Saloon. I was so happy to be only the second former MSE to become Miss Gay America, following in the footsteps of Charity Case. This was truly a special night, since there are many very close friends of mine in Dallas who have been with me along my journey to becoming Miss Gay America. The end of the night welcomed Alina Malletti, from San Jose, CA, as Miss Southern Elegance, and Brittany O'Bryan, from Dallas, TX, as first alternate.

Then, it was back home for two days to repack for my second trip to the beautiful state of Arizona for Miss Western States. I cannot say enough about the people in Arizona. They are some of the most hospitable and sincere people I've encountered and I love them so much! My tour began with a show at "It's About Time" with Arizona legends, Bunny Fu Fu and Lucinda Holliday. By the way, Lucinda is the official jeweler for Miss Gay America 2005. You can see her stunning work draped all over me, as well as at www.MadeForAQueen.COM.

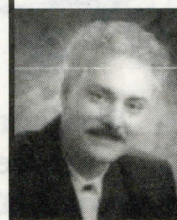
The next leg of my Tucson tour took me to Ain't Nobody's Biz, working with Tori Steele. She's got some lovely southern charm! My MGA sisters Patti Le Plae Safe, from Dallas, and Catia Lee Love, from Tulsa, OK, arrived in the desert as a limo took us, along with Western States promoters, Danny and Daniel, on a bar tour, beginning with a show at Woody's. All this led up to the big event of the Miss Gay Western States Pageant. It was held in a ballroom at the Double Tree Hotel in Tucson. A massive crowd showed up for this star studded event. The finale of the night was the crowning of Angela Dodd as Miss Western States and Tori Steele as first alternate, both from Arizona.

My congratulations to all these contestants. This makes eight contestants that are

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returning and fierce contestants heading to MGA. And my sincere thanks goes out to all who helped to make March madness a very exciting and memorable one.

I've just returned from the annual Miss Gay America Spring Retreat, this year held in Little Rock, AR. I have performed with many of the former MGA's before, but it was such a special occasion to be part of the Miss Gay America Revue show. The following former MGA's were in attendance: Norma Kristie, Little Rock, AR; Blaze Star, Atlanta, GA; Valerie Lohr, Patti Le Plae Safe, Charity Case, all from Dallas, TX; Maya Montana, Boston, MA; Dominique Sanchez, Little Rock, AR; and Rachael Erikks, Oklahoma City, OK.

I'd also like to mention that the Miss Gay Louisiana America had its first prelim of the year, Miss Splash, held at Splash in Baton Rouge. The staff and management did an outstanding job putting on the pageant. Congratulations go out to Sosha Iman St. James on being crowned this year's Miss Splash, and to Arilyn Roberts on placing first alternate. These two contestants now go on to compete in this year's Miss Gay Louisiana America pageant to be held August 25 and 26 at Splash in Baton Rouge. Keep posted on all MGLA info and see pictures from prelims as they occur at www.MissLouisianaAmerica.COM.

Finally, it's in *Raquel's Reality* that I take the time to appreciate every moment of this journey and want to share it with you. You can see pictures of all my trips on my website at www.RaquelChevallier.COM. Until next month...

All my love, --Raquel Chevallier, Miss Gay America 2005

trodding the boards ...from M-29

manner of an old Carol Burnett sketch?

Among the highlights, or low points, were a scene featuring fluttering palm fronds to express the multitude's enthusiasm; a too scrubbed clean Mary Magdalene wandering about the stage during her big *I Don't Know How to Love Him* number like a contestant on *American Idol*; an over-caFFEinated chorus doing aerobics that substituted for choreography; a post-death Judas surrounded by a white T-shirt-and-pants-clad corps de hip-hop for a jaunty routine (Was this Heaven or Hell?); and a Las Vegas-y Herod for a number seemingly interpolated from that other Webber Biblical opus *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. And Jesus allowing himself to be lifted up on his followers' shoulders? I don't think so.

Director/choreographer Alton Geno may have had a concept for this production (reverent, minimalist, modernizing—who knows?) but, if so, he seemed to keep it to himself. He never created a sense of urgency nor made the audience feel that the characters who peopled his stage actually knew one another. The twelve apostles seemed more like friendly members of a country club than committed followers of a

[continued on Main-31]



RAQUEL'S REALITY

by Miss Gay America Raquel Chevallier
E-mail: RaquelChevallier@cox.net

Hello Everyone! So many of you have been there for me, supporting and encouraging me for the years of hard work leading up to me being crowned Miss Gay America 2005. I have been traveling non stop since crowning and wanted to find a way to involve you in my journey. Rip and Marsha did an outstanding job on the beautiful write up, announcing me as Miss Gay America 2005. I am so pleased they are welcoming me to do a monthly write up, titled *Raquel's Reality*, entailing the excitement that many of you have helped me achieve.

For many years I've heard Miss Gay America's say that the reality of being crowned really doesn't hit you until your first prelim. It has been almost six months since becoming Miss Gay America 2005. I've been traveling extensively since then, so it has been slowly sinking in and I've been getting chills every time I would hear myself being announced as MGA. But, when the time came and I was at my first prelim, I can honestly say that it really is at the first prelim that reality truly sets in and I realized that I am Miss Gay America. It was when I started doing all the administrative things that I realized that all those contestants depended on me.

I made sure that the contestants were comfortable in their dressing room, had plenty of time to get ready, judges were briefed and made sure that all scores were accurate and everyone was treated fairly.

Many people may think that being Miss Gay America at the preliminaries is to just show up and look pretty. Well, of course, you need to show up and it certainly helps to look pretty. But,

there's a reason male interview plays such a huge part in our system, because Miss Gay America very much becomes the administrator for the whole system. Judges need to find out through the male interviews whether you will be able to handle the huge administrative duties that are required at prelims. One of the biggest things that have prepared me for doing the administrative duties at prelims was being a city promoter for several years. I encourage you to become familiar with the MGA score sheets like the back of your hand.

I was really pleased to see that there were four regional prelims early in the year. I always preferred to qualify early. My first prelim took me not too far from home, to Memphis, TN. Larry and Terry, the new owners of Miss Gay America, out did themselves and really put on a quality pageant, themed around yours truly, *Mardi Gras and a New Orleans Lady*. Everything from the decorations, music and lunch, was all about New Orleans and Mardi Gras. It certainly was special to have my MGA sisters Catia, Rachael and Dominique there for my first prelim. I had the pleasure of my first crowning to be a dear friend of mine, Nicole Dubois, from Gulfport, MS, Miss Mid America. Also, a new sister I've gotten to know and love, China Collins, from Kansas City, MO, got first alternate and is now on her way to compete at Miss Gay America.

The next week took me from one end of the country to the other, all in one weekend. Miss Gay Keystone America was held at The Velvet Rope in York, PA, where I got to perform with my zany sister, Ingenua, Miss Gay Maryland America. Truly Fabu, from Baltimore, MD, took

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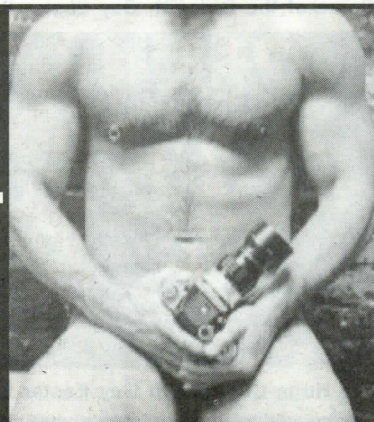
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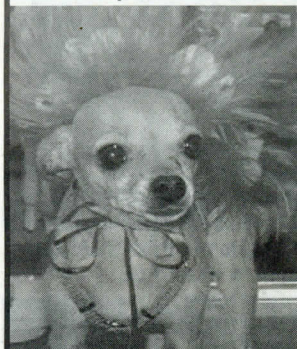
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trodding the boards ...from M-30 renegade.

In Tim Rice's sung-through lyrics, Jesus tends to come off as alternately whiny and spoiled. Perhaps a great performance could overcome this, but if the real Jesus Christ had as little charisma as Michael Patrick Burgess exhibited, there probably would be no Christianity today. And despite a lovely voice, Stacy Talianchich's Mary Magdalene was blander than her Mary Bland in True Brew's *Eating Raoul*.

On the plus side, throughout both acts Vatican Lokey displayed a clarion, high-ranging tenor; after an unfocused start, he captured the agony that came of Judas' betrayal of his friend and leader. Randy Cheramie made a scheming, self-satisfied Caiaphas. Mason Wood was a properly contemplative, troubled but ultimately ruthless Pilate. Underutilized as Simon Zealotes, the ever-appealing Scott Sauber's clean enunciation could have served as a model for many

[continued on Main-34]

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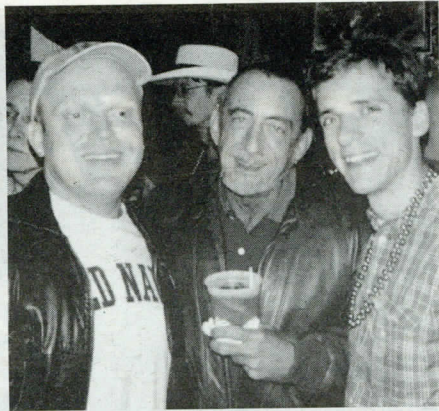
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Some of the Girls/6th Gay Easter Parade



Honorary Easter Bunny Wally Sherwood



EGM VI James Swire & King Amon Ra XL Randall Brown/Post GEP Party/Queen's Head Pub



Prince Sam & EGM V Princesse Stephaney/Post GEP Party/Queen's Head Pub



The Huge Crowds/6th Gay Easter Parade

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Bianca Del Rio puts the finishing touches on EGM VI Lisa Beaumann



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GEP Board's Tittie Toulouse, Electra City & Marsha Naquin-Delain join EGM VI Lisa Beaumann/Double Play



DJ of the Year Tim Pflueger & Vickie Vynes/Pre-GEP Party/Starlight



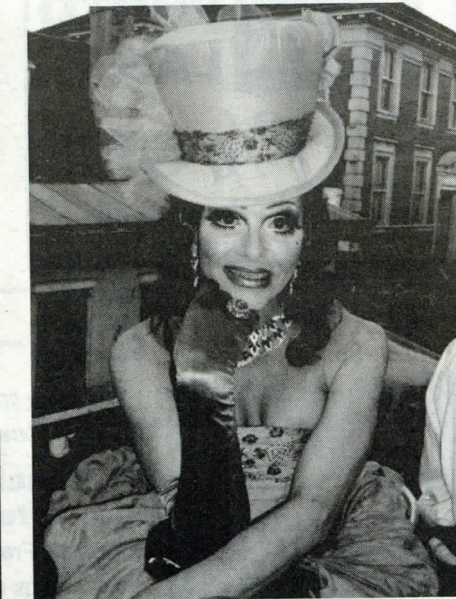
Starlight By The Park's Javier/Pre-GEP Party/Starlight



King Cake Queen XII Savanna DeLorean & Bill Powell/Post GEP Party/Queen's Head Pub



EGMs I Marsha & Rip Naquin-Delain/Corner Pocket



EGM VI Lisa Beaumann/Post-GEP Party/Queen's Head Pub



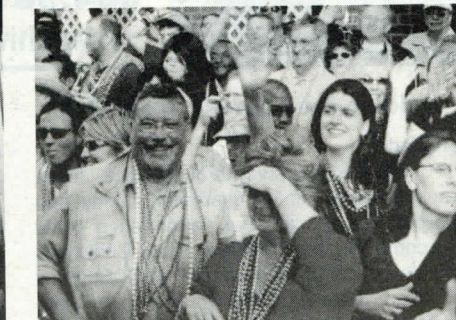
Jeff, Tom, Mickey & Brett of Mickey Nolan Salon/Pre-GEP Party/Starlight



Darwin Reed & Opal Masters/Post GEP Party/Queen's Head Pub



Post GEP Party/Queen's Head Pub



The Crowds at Oz/6th Gay Easter Parade

PRE & POST GAY EASTER PARADE PARTIES ~ NEW ORLEANS ...PHOTOS: ZACH CAMARDELLE, CORNER POCKET, PAUL DAVIS, PHYLLIS DENMARK, CHRIS HALL, RIP NAQUIN-DELAIN, STARLIGHT



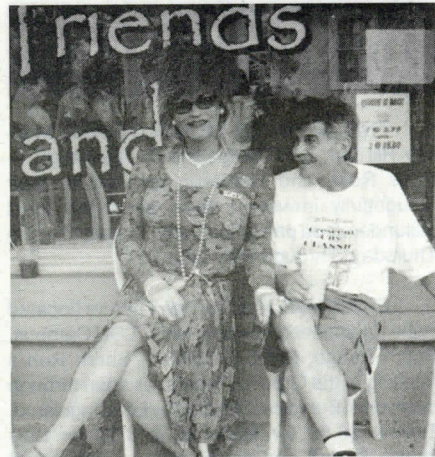
Marigny Bunny Hop Presenter Carl Meyer of Coffee, Friends and...



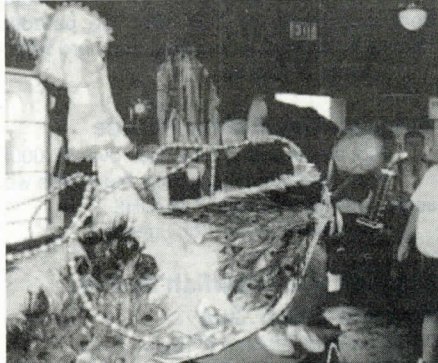
Country Club's Art presents Best Garden Hat 2nd Place to Matthew



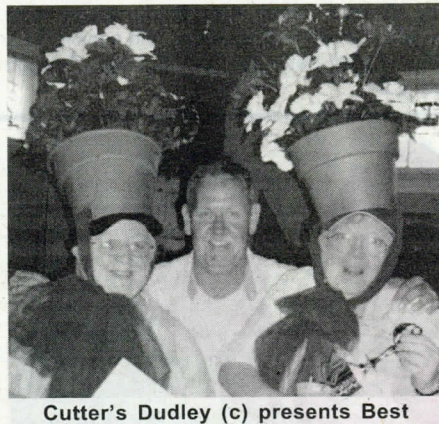
Sherry at the Phoenix



EGM V Princesse Stephaney & Prince Sam/Coffee, Friends and...



Robert wins Widest Hat at Big Daddy's & Tallest Hat at Mimi's



Cutter's Dudley (c) presents Best Newbie Hats to Marty & Koo



Bunny Hop Coordinator Kinky-Winky & Marsha/Coffee, Friends and...



Tony & Daryl win Most Original Hat from Rene (c) at the Friendly Bar



Tim, Joel & Dan win Ambush's Most Glamorous Hat



JR & Chet/Coffee, Friends and...



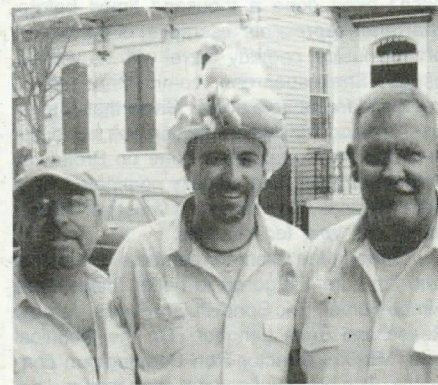
Widest & Tallest Hat/Robert & Herb



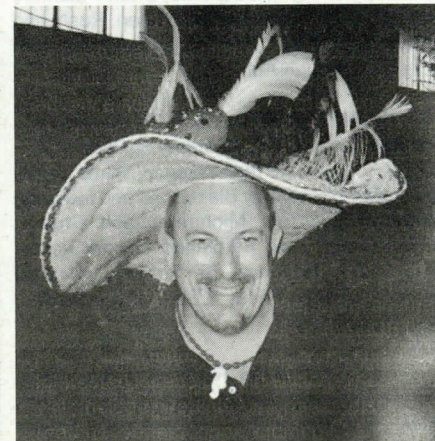
Red presents Campiest Hat to Sherry at the Phoenix



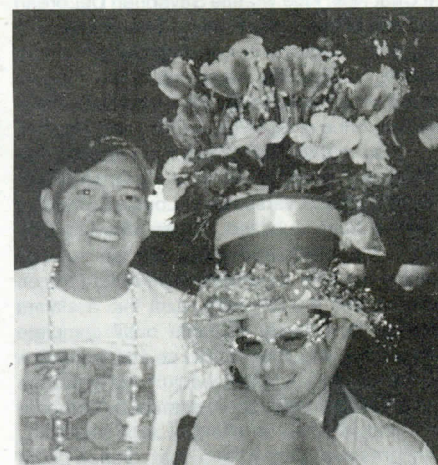
The Pot Heads from the Friendly/Coffee, Friends and... winners of Best of the Best!



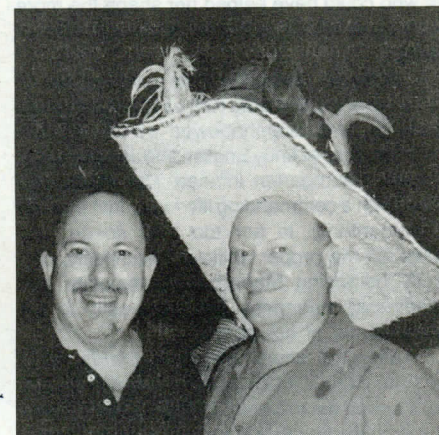
Earl, Brian & Cutter's Dudley/Coffee, Friends and...



Andy/Cowpokes



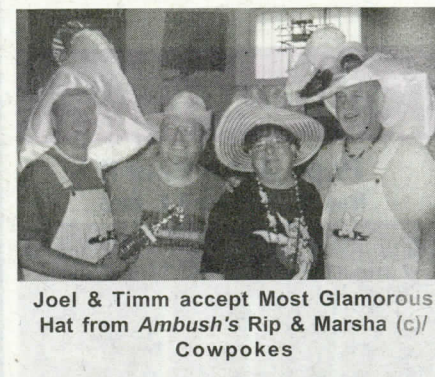
Country Club's Art presents Best Garden Hat 1st Place to John



Andy & Randy/Cutter's



The Pot Heads/Coffee, Friends and...



Joel & Timm accept Most Glamorous Hat from Ambush's Rip & Marsha (c)/Cowpokes



The Pot Heads/Coffee, Friends and...

big EASY PAPAZZI

ON THE BOARDS

THE ASSHOLE MONOLOGUES. Mon-key Hill Bar, 6100 Magazine St., 899.4800 — Chris Rose and RedBean return with their thoughtfully irreverent show about the most misunderstood part of the body. Tickets \$5. 8pm Thursday. Through May 26.

EURYDICE. Hatcher Hall Theatre (located in the basement of Hatcher Hall), LSU Campus, Baton Rouge, 225.578.3527 — Sarah Ruhl's retelling of the Orpheus legend as seen through the eyes of Eurydice. Directed by Leon Ingulsrud. Tickets \$8.50 for students, \$13.50 for LSU faculty & staff and senior citizens (65+), and \$15.50 for adults. 7:30pm April 12-16 and 19-23; 2pm April 17 and 24.

FIFTEEN MINUTES AT MIDWAY. Lupin Theater, Newcomb Quad, Tulane University Uptown Campus, 865.5106 — Four views of a historic event. A world premiere by Sheila Bosworth, Jim Fitzmorris, Laura Harrington and Michael Maguire. Directed by Ron Gural. Produced in collaboration with The New Orleans D-Day Museum. Tickets \$12, Tulane Faculty & Staff \$9, All Students & Seniors \$7.50. 8pm Wednesday-Saturday, 2pm Sunday. Through April 24.

THE GULLS. One Eyed Jacks, 615 Toulouse St., 606.9903 — Running With Scissors presents a loose adaptation of Hitchcock's *The Birds* in Ryan Landry's parody. Richard Read directs Flynn De Marco, Brian Peterson, Nathan Martin, Jim Jeske, Dorian Rush and others. Tickets \$17. 8pm Friday-Saturday, 3pm Sunday. Through April 17.

IN THE BAR OF A TOKYO HOTEL. Marigny Theatre, 1030 Marigny St, 948.9924 — DRAMA! presents Tennessee Williams' rarely done play. Directed by Blake Balu and featuring Marinda Woodruff, Michael-Chase Creasy, Martin Covert, and Ferdinand Olinger. Tickets \$15, \$12 in advance, \$7 Student (w/ valid student ID). 8pm Friday & Saturday, 6pm Sunday. Through April 17.

LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS. Minacapelli's Restaurant, 1540 Lindberg Drive, Slidell, 985.781.6565 — Minacapelli's Dinner Theater presents Neil Simon's comedy about a middle-aged man contemplating affairs with

three different women. Rickie Luke directs Sara Pagonis, Desiree Dabdoub, Cheryl Grace and others. Tickets \$35 for dinner and show. 1:30pm Sunday. Through April 17.

THE MUSIC OF ERICH ZANN. Zeitgeist Multi-Disciplinary Arts Center, 1724 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd., 525.2767 or 525.6246 — Theatre Louisiana presents a play based on a H.P. Lovecraft story adapted and directed by Amy Woodruff. Kevin M. Lee, John Tiliakos and Amy Woodruff star in this multimedia performance. For audiences 12-up. Tickets \$10. 8pm Friday-Sunday. Through April 17.

SOUTHERN FRIED CHICKIE. Martine's Lounge, 2347 Metairie Road, Metairie, 301.6288 — A comedy written and performed by Christy McBrayer with music by Tom Maron, Gina Forsyth and Seth Morrison. Rita Sheffield directs. Tickets \$20 (includes free fried chicken). 8pm Friday. Through April 16.

VARLA JEAN MERMAN'S...GIRL WITH A PEARL NECKLACE. Le Chat Noir, 715 St. Charles Ave., 581-5812 — The 6ft-something

redhead, aka Jeff Roberson, is back with another outrageous show filled with laughs, songs and new videos! Tickets \$35 include \$5 bar credit. 8pm Thursday-Saturday. Through April 16.

WHAT THE BUTLER SAW. Skyfire Theatre, 332 N. New Hampshire St., Covington, 985.875.7577 — The Skyfire Theatre presents Joe Orton's play about a mental institution where the doctors are crazier than the patients. Deborah Marcelle directs George Sanchez, Debbie Morvant, Jay Westbrook and others. Tickets \$20 general admission, \$15 students/seniors. 8pm Friday-Saturday. Through April 23.

YOUR ARMS TOO SHORT TO BOX WITH GOD. The Anthony Bean Community Theatre, 1333 South Carrollton Ave., 862.7529 — A soaring celebration in song and dance based on the Gospel of St. Matthew. Conceived by Vinnette Carroll, Alex Bradford and Mikki Grant. Tickets \$18, students and seniors \$15. 8pm Friday-Saturday, 3pm Sunday. Through April 24.

trodding the boards ...from M-31

other cast members. And in his one song as a glam-rock Herod, Gary Rucker sent out a seductive jolt of primal talent that elevated this *J.C.S.* from a ho-hum affair to captivating musical theater. Alas, he was on and off the stage in a mere three minutes.

For some, *Jesus Christ Superstar* can be an affirmative, life-changing experience. For me, I'll stick with the book on which it was based.

Starmites at NOCCA

Though they say that lightning doesn't strike the same place twice,

NOCCA's Musical Theatre Division followed up its wonderful Ambie Award-winning 2003 *Side Show* with the equally brilliant Ambie Award-winning *Floyd Collins* last year.

Alas, lightning doesn't seem to strike the same place three times—at least not in a row.

Though I can imagine the challenge is great for Director Blake Coheley to find an appropriate show to spotlight the talents of his charges that hasn't been done a thousand times before, *Starmites* represents a scraping of the bottom of the musical comedy barrel with its witless, pseudo-Shakespearean, comic strip-inspired book and forgettable score. Given that, it's not so surprising that this production was a dud, but that *Starmites* was even done on Broadway in the first place and actually nominated for a Best Musical Tony Award. It must've been a pretty sad year for musicals.

Among the talented members of the cast who I'm sure will go on to better things were Aimée Fortier, Eric Bond, Julius Feltus, Jeremy Reese and Erica Langhoff. On the technical side, Musical Director Ron Bermingham conducted with his usual aplomb even managing a few goosebump moments of choral bliss; Dan Zimmer's lighting sparkled and twinkled and flooded the stage with appropriate Lichtensteinian benday dot colors; and the sound design of David Rigamer (live sound) and Nicholas Frederick (sound effects) was worthy of Broadway, even having me believing at one point that an actor was speaking from the back of the auditorium.

As a performance vehicle, *Starmites* left a lot to be desired. As a learning tool, however, it taught NOCCA students the valuable lesson of how to breathe life into a turkey.

The Maids X 2 at the Jewel Gallery

While my colleague Patrick Shannon chose to see only the male version of *The Maids X 2*, which he reviewed in our previous issue, I saw



Brian Peterson & Flynn De Marco in *The Gulls*

both male and female versions, or visions as they were called in the program. Like Patrick, I found the men engrossing. It's probably just as well he didn't see the women however.

Credit Director Lane Savadove with the idea of presenting this one act play back-to-back with two casts that he guided to two radically different interpretations—men's version in a prison, the women's in the more traditional setting of a haute bourgeois boudoir. That's fine.

But Savadove is not an actors' director; even with the men his direction lacked the detail that could have enhanced the proceedings from the compelling to the heartbreaking. With the women, however, we got an overwrought, obvious and sloppy 75 minutes.

Certainly playwright Jean Genet was exploring acting and artifice in *The Maids*. But there's acting and then there's "acting." I'm willing to overlook Daiva Olson's overacting as Claire when she was "playing" her mistress, but when it continued throughout the performance it became unbearable. Leah Loftin, a graceful actress, gave a more modulated performance as older sister Solange; though good, she would have been better served by a director who could have helped her shape the more multi-dimensional portrayal she's capable of giving.

Ironically, unlike the male version in which Chris Lane's butch drag turn as Madame, while laudable, was overshadowed by the bravura performances of Andy English and Jason Junius, Claudia Baumgarten infused *The Maids* (female) with a commanding life force, invigorating it momentarily. In her too brief scene, she achieved the proper artificial theatricality, perfectly balancing Madame's grandiosity and neediness, meanness and generosity in the performance of her career.

After the shortcomings of *Maids* (F), I was not exactly looking forward to *Maids* (M), but it turned out to be almost like a different play, one amplified by its former self. I guess there's something to be said for "Ladies first."

E-MAIL/LETTERS

Subject: Easter Parade

Rip, Marsha, and the Easter Parade Board, Thank you for an absolutely wonderful Easter day. The festivities were first rate from beginning to finish...with seven grand to boot for Food for Friends. Ya'll are the best.

--Jack

Subject: Kudos on the Easter Parade

Rip and Marsha, We had a fantastic time. It was the best Easter Parade for us, and that's what we heard from everybody we saw after the parade. Thanks for all your time, effort, and hard work.

--Andy & Randy

Subject: Gay Easter Parade

Rip, that is soooo fantastic: over \$7,000! From everyone, especially the clients we serve, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!

--dporche', Food For Friends

Subject: Re: Crawfish Boil at Bywater Bar.B.Que

Dearest Marsha and Rip,

Thank you for including me in this email. I also want you to know just how much I appreciate you publishing the Mayor's Advisory Council for Citizens with Disabilities Public Meeting Notices. Congratulations for such a successful Gay Easter Parade benefiting the Food for Friends program. You two must be the most philanthropic people on the planet! Best wishes.

Fondly, --Page

Subject: Re: Crawfish Boil at Bywater Bar.B.Que

You did a great job with the Parade. Won't be able to make the boil. Thanks!!!

--Jenni Joyride

sherwood's Forest ...from Main-28

event in America, will take over Lafayette on Apr. 20-24. This year, more than a hundred acts from Africa, Latin America and Europe will perform in a country-fair atmosphere. Contact 337.232.8086 or festivalinternational.com.

And, finally but most certainly not least, Apr. 15-17 is shaping up as a big Bear weekend. The Ninth Annual Bearnik will be at Black Bear Camp Men's Retreat at Waverly, AL. Go to blackbearcamp.net or call John Bales at 334.887.5152. In the other direction, it will be the Bayou Teche Black Bear Festival in downtown Franklin. And human Bears will be there too, enjoying the food, crafts, seminars and music, such as members of the New Orleans Bear and Bear Trapper Social Club.

Celebrity Lube Wrestling at Cowpokes

I suppose you had to be there but, suffice to say, seeing Varla Jean Merman, who appears this weekend at Le Chat Noir, lube wrestle Savannah DeLorean was one of the funniest things I have seen in a long time. Words cannot describe Miss Merman rotating on Miss DeLorean's rump like a 33rpm record. And this followed Miss Merman's operatic rendering of *Gypsies, Tramps and Thieves*.

Add to that, Bianca Del Rio's caustic emceeing, the opening match of *Ambush's* own Phyllis Denmark versus Delta Louise Carter that could've been subtitled "*When Whales Collide*", the black-and-white shirted referee making out with a gentleman wearing fireman insignia, and the referee's razor thin assistant dressed in a lovely off-white outfit complete with snazzy shoulder minipurse and sporting a lacquered black wig that would have made the late great Ann Miller seem demure by comparison, and you had an event of such absurdist, transgressive proportions that Genet could only have marveled at. And all benefitting the good cause of Belle Reve.

OBITUARY

Pope John Paul II May 18, 1920-April 2, 2005



(Photo: Rip Naquin-Delain/St. Peter's Basilica/Rome/March, 1993)

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The Parade **FOR, BY & FROM**
the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual &
Transgender Community of New Orleans

6th Gay Easter Parade (GEP) FINANCIAL REPORT

April 12, 2005

Parade Income:

Sponsorships	4,600.00
GM Reception(Corner Pocket)	51.00
Spring Fever (4 Seasons)	1,315.00
Star Studed Benefit (Cowpokes)	1,512.00
GEP Benefit (Golden Lantern)	226.00
Purple Party (Double Play)	1,452.00
Alice in Leatherland (Phoenix)	537.00
Parade Entry Fees	175.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$9,868.00

Parade Expenses:

Parade Permit	50.25
Police Escort	815.00
Insurance	630.00
Carriages/EGM Vs	470.00
Parade Line-up Fee	100.00
Band	700.00
Banner	82.84
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,848.09

2005 PROFITS benefiting Food For Friends

\$7,019.91

2005 SPONSORS:

(Cash & In Kind Contributions)

Platinum \$1,000 • Electra City & Tittie Toulouse, Cowpokes, Double Play, 4 Seasons, Rip & Marsha Naquin-Delain, Whiz Magazine

Gold \$500 • Phoenix, Pride Specialty, Quartermaster: The Nellie Deli

Silver \$250 • Zach Camardelle & Star Daniels, Jay Cooper & Gizelle Bouvier, Corner Pocket, Golden Lantern, Graham Studio One, Oz New Orleans, Queen's Head Pub/Good Friends Bar, Starlight, Paul VanGeffen

Bronze \$100 • Craig Austin, Paul Davis & Tami Tarmac, Andy & Phyllis Denmark, King Cake Queen Royalty Club, Krewe of Mwindo, Chris & Buffy Naquin-Delain, Doc Reed

Gay Easter Parade Board of Directors: Rip & Marsha Naquin-Delain, Electra City & Tittie Toulouse

GayEasterParade.COM