

Blue Odyssey Club

The GAY Show Place of the South



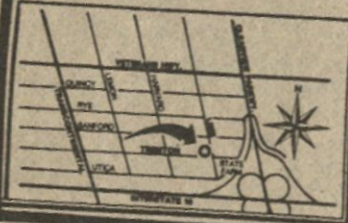
2820 Lime Street
Metairie

ILLUSION '83
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LISA BEAUMANN & TRACY LEIGH
AS

Liza Minnelli
Judy Garland
Carol Channing
Marilyn Monroe
Pat Benatar
Phyllis Diller
Dolly Parton
Dottie West
Joan Jett
Barbara Mandrell
Gilda Radner
Linda Ronstadt

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BRANDY ALEXANDER
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by
national and local talent

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TUESDAY NIGHT IS TALENT NIGHT
DANCING NIGHTLY



SUNDAY BEER BUST 6-8
SHOW TIME 8:00 P.M. TILL ?

455-5559

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Very Happy Hours, 4-7pm

Sunday Breakfast and Lunch
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Sunday, 8am-9pm
Closed Monday
437 Esplanade
944-0793

"All Our Voices... All Our Visions"

The GFA Council has been meeting weekly since the end of March in preparation for Gay Fest Acadiana '83. This year we have chosen to set aside an entire week to emphasize our gay pride. The theme for this week is: "ALL OUR VOICES... ALL OUR VISIONS."

We will begin the observance on the actual anniversary of the Stonewall riots. June 28, 1983—Interfaith Memorial Service with candlelight, "We Are Called to Freedom: A Time to Remember" 7:30 p.m. at the Pavilion of St. Jules R.C. Church. Recalling those who died wearing the pink triangles in Hitler's concentration camps, Harvey Milk, and others who gave their lives in the modern-day struggle for freedom.

Enclosed you will also find the release about the Charlie Murphy concert. We are very proud to bring Charlie to Acadiana. We need your help for the information fair which will coincide with the concert. Every organization is urged to 1) set up a space with materials, info., etc. or 2) send us your materials and we will make sure we spread the news about your special service to the gay/lesbian community. Both NGTF and GRNL will have plenty of literature available. We need to let our

own people know what is available on a local, state-wide and national level. Remember the date: Thursday, June 30.

We are presently putting together a baseball tournament for Saturday, July 2. It looks like teams of men, women, or men and women, will compete for the GFA '83 championship trophy. A team may be sponsored by an organization or business, or may be just friends getting together. Entry fee is \$5 per team. Details will reach you shortly.

Some of the local bars will hold special events during the week and we will inform you of their plans in due time. In the meantime, mark your calendar: June 28—July 4 is Gay Fest week in Lafayette. ...Laissez les bons temps rouler!

For information, comments, questions call us at (318) 237-9588 or write GFA Council, P.O. Box 91443, Lafayette, LA 70509.

The GFA Council.

P.S. "The Story of Adam and Steve" (a comic "What If?" story of creation) will be presented by the puppets of the MCCA Little Theatre on Fri. June 3 and Sat. June 4. Check it out...for only \$1 admission. Call us for details...And, Jerry Falwell, EAT YOUR HEART OUT!

Giant Raffle Benefits Celebration '83

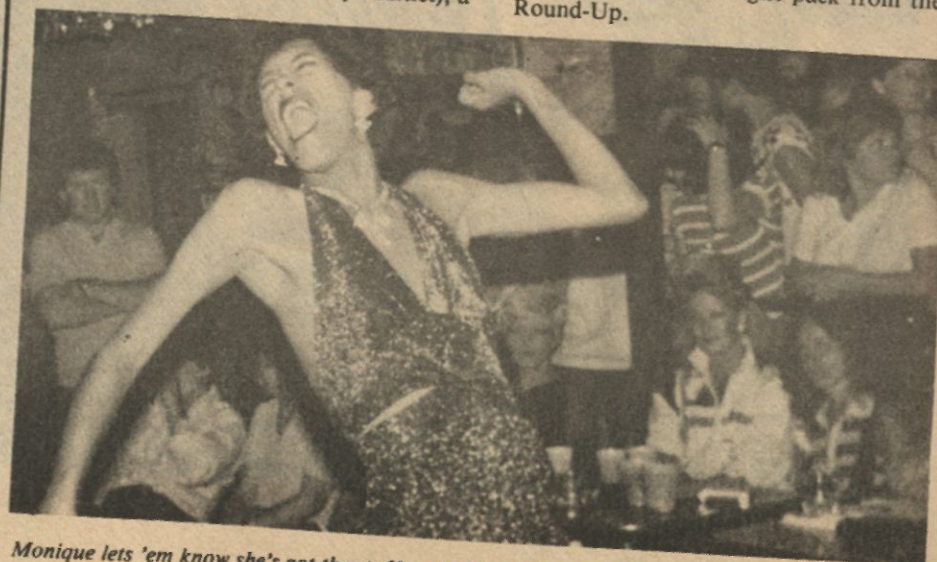
You could win one of over 40 prizes which have been contributed by business for the CELEBRATION '83 giant raffle. CELEBRATION '83 is a Gay Pride Week event co-sponsored by 30 gay community organizations which will occur June 17th and 18th. The raffle is the only source of fund raising to finance the event. Tickets are available at the Faubourg Marigny Bookstore, 600 Frenchmen Street, and from individuals and organizations planning CELEBRATION '83.

Winning tickets will be drawn during the supper hour on June 18th at the Jazz Complex in Armstrong Park.

Prizes are: Florida vacation for two (round trip plane tickets to Ft. Lauderdale donated by The Travel Center, one week accommodations at Shirley Lodge in Key West, dinner at the Roof Top Cafe and a \$25 bar tab at the Monster Disco); Key West vacation for two (One week accommodations at the Tropical Inn, sunset cruise on the Western Union, and a \$25 bar tab at the Monster Disco); Friday and Saturday night accommodations for two at the Lafitte's Guest House.

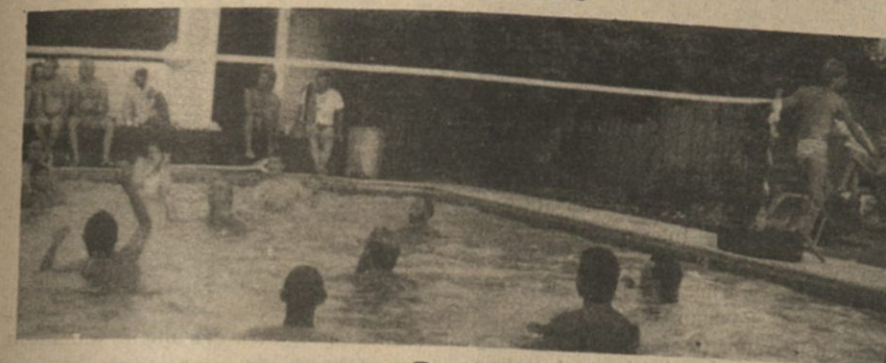
Also, dinner for two at The Quarter Scene; dinner for two at The Raintree; two \$50 gift certificates from the 927 Gallery; a Jazz Fest poster from Joseph's Frame Shop; four t-shirts from The Diner; a Haitian primitive oil painting from Universal Brothers of the World (Reality Market); a

\$25 gift certificate from Thaddeus and Company; a \$25 bar tab at Finale II, a \$50 gift certificate and a silk flower arrangement from Key Florals; a kaftan donated anonymously; a silk flower arrangement from Flowers by Betty; a housecleaning by Touch of Class; a \$25 gift certificate from French Quarter Florists; two tickets to the June 30th performance of a Tennessee Williams play and two tickets to the first play of the fall season from Theatre Marigny; a framed Dixie Beer poster from Persian Boy; two packets each containing a cap, t-shirt, female and male poster from Ambush; a surprise from Gallery Elwood; a \$10 gift certificate from Faubourg Marigny Bookstore; a \$25 bar tab at Charlene's; a surprise from The Framing Market; a \$25 gift certificate from William Cooney Antiques; a \$25 gift certificate from Van Gogh's Ear; dinner for two at Molly at the Market's; \$25 bar tab at Travis's a flower or plant arrangement from New Orleans Flower Mart; a portable timer from La Cuisine Classique; dinner for two at Menefee's a stuffed knitter from Yesteryear; a membership at The Country Club; dinner for two at Madame Chenille; a \$25 bar tab at Track's; four posters from Dorothy Decatur's Closet; a haircut from As You Like It; a liquor and fruit basket from A. Boudreaux and Supplies; and Chambord gift pack from the Round-Up.



Monique lets 'em know she's got the stuff at the Miss Gay World Pageant.

Sports Water Volleyball Schedule



Tuesday, June 7

Court of Two Sisters vs St. Louis Crepe Shoppe
Bourbon Pub vs Pino's

Thursday, June 9

Gay Men's Chorus vs Diane's
Castaways vs Kathryn's Upstairs Downstairs

Tuesday, June 14

Menefee's vs Mississippi River Bottom
Corner Pocket vs Play It Again Sam's

Thursday, June 16

Armenius vs St. Louis Crepe Shoppe
Court of Two Sisters vs Pino's

Tuesday, June 21

Bourbon Pub vs Loading Zone
Golden Lantern vs Jewel's

Thursday, June 23

Corner Pocket vs Gay Men's Chorus
Kathryn's Upstairs Downstairs vs Mississippi River Bottom

Tuesday, June 28

Castaways vs Play It Again Sam's
Armenius vs Menefee's

Thursday, June 30

Jewel's vs Court of Two Sisters
St. Louis Crepe Shoppe vs Pino's

Tuesday, July 5

Corner Pocket vs Kathryn's Upstairs Downstairs
Gay Men's Chorus vs Mississippi River Bottom



Tim "looking fine" Williams and her team take time out to pose at the recent ball game between her team and the Soiled Dove gang, held in City Park.



The select athletes and semi-coherent athletic supporters of the Soiled Dove Team plan to show Ron Guidry a thing or two about balls.

WATCH FOR THE
GRAND OPENING
OF

CECIL'S ROUNDTABLE

Cecil R. Webb,
Owner



Kathryn Ann "Kitty Blackwell," Countess of Causeway, smiles as her guests munch out to the max on the delicate mud bugs during a Sunday afternoon affair.



Helmut Stuhlman, proprietress of the Galley House, presents his two handsome bartenders with a cake for their birthdays. With Helmut in the picture we are forbidden to mention ages!



The rummage sale given by Petronius in front of Travis' on Rampart proved to be highly successful.



The New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus pause during their concert at Le Petit Theatre. Their next appearance will be a Gay Pride concert at St. Marks Community Center on June 22 at 8:00 (\$1.00 Donation).

Page 26, Impact, June 1983



Mike at the Corner Pocket drenches a contestant in just the right places at his wet jockey shorts contest.



Elizabeth Simms "Lakeside Liz" and the milk maid, Andy "eat another crawdad" Boudreaux in a heated debate over eating tail. Joe "Ivan" Butler looks on saying "I never touch them myself—well, almost never!"

Classifieds

ORGANIZATIONS

LAGPAC—(Louisiana Gay Political Action Caucus) is working for the rights of all Louisianians. Join now. Be a part of the solutions. Send \$10 dues to P.O. Box 53075, New Orleans, LA 70153. For information call, 523-3922 or 944-3254.

LUTHERANS CONCERNED—Worship for gays and non-gays. 2033 Burgundy St.

GAY COUNSELING LINE, INC.—Information and advisory service . . . for the good of all our people. People who listen and care. Phone us at: 522-5815.

GAY CRISIS LINE—24 hours. Information, problem solving, referrals. Professional insight for all. 947-4297.

CARE AND COUNSELING CENTER—2033 Burgundy, 947-4297 or 943-4416. Hospital and jail visit, rituals of friendship, meeting of gay parents, meeting of gay couples, personal counseling, group therapy, referral service, crisis line. "A mini-social service agency operated by gays for gays."

COUNSELING SERVICES—Counseling offered for personal problems in areas of personal growth, relationships, alcoholism, drug abuse, weight control. 3037 Dauphine St., 522-9823 or 363-8197. Ask for Jim West or Art Huttick.

TAKE IT OFF—Keep it off! Feel better, look better, feel good about yourself. Weight control therapy, group or individual. 3037 Dauphine St., 522-9823 or 363-8197. Ask for Jim West or Art Huttick.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH—Sundays, 3:30 P. at St. Mark's Community Center, 1130 No. Rampart Street. 7:00 P.M. at 1st Unitarian Church, 1800 Jefferson Avenue. Wednesdays (1800 Jefferson Avenue), 6:15 P.M. Dinner (\$3.00). 7:15 Worship; 8:15 Gay Rap.

LAMBDA CHAI—Gay/Lesbian Jewish Congregation. Weekly Services and Social Activities. Fridays, 8:00 P.M. 1022 Decatur Street. 524-69342.SHALOM!

NATIONAL GAY CONTACT CLUB—Men & Women. Low rates. SASE: Dean, P.O. Box 26044, San Jose, CA 95159. (1/6T/PD)

NEW ORLEANS GAY MEN'S CHORUS—Open rehearsals Wednesdays, 7:30. St. Mark's Community Center. Sing now; audition later. Debut concert May 14! 529-1146.

INTEGRITY—For gay Episcopalians and their friends, meets first and third Mondays at 7:30 P.M., at the St. Louis Community Center.

FORMER MEMBERS—of the New Orleans Celtics interested in reorganizing the club, please contact Impact, Box No. 2A.

LESBIAN CORRESPONDENCE CLUB—Years of reliable service. Inexperience. Send SASE to: The New Dawn, P.O. Box 1849, Alexandria, VA 22313-1849 (2/1T/PD).

OLYMPUS SUMMER FUNCTION, "Casino '83," July 23, Tickets available now.

KREWE OF OLYMPUS is looking for a few good men for memberships. Call 947-2915.

LET'S ALL WORK Together to get off drugs. Meetings every Monday, 8 P.M. at the Lambda Center, 1431 Chartres St. Call 945-0222 for more information.

PINK TRIANGLES—A study of prejudice against lesbians and gay men is a 35-minute color film that challenges some of our most deeply rooted feelings, our attitudes toward homosexuality. This showing will be held at the St. Louis Community Center, 1022 Barracks St. at 8 P.M., June 21. There will be a cash bar serving non alcoholic as well as alcoholic beverages. Child care will be provided. Brought to you by the New Orleans Lavender Left.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF GAYS is a peer support group which provides a warm, non-threatening environment in which families, friends, and gays express their feelings and learn about each other. Our major focus is to help gays and non-gays to communicate, and to prevent the family breakdowns which sometimes follow the revelation that a person is gay. We meet on the

second Thursday of each month; the next meeting will be on Thursday, June 9, at 7:30 P.M., at the St. Louis Community Center, 1022 Barracks Street. The meetings are free and open to anyone, gay or straight, who is interested in breaking down barriers of fear and misunderstanding. For more information, call the Center at 524-6932 or 524-7032.

THE NEW ORLEANS VOLLEYBALL Association (NOVA) would like to invite gay men and women of all skill levels from beginners on up to participate in our volleyball clinic and summer league. We meet Monday nights, June 13, 20, 27, July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 8 at 6:30 P.M. in Cabrini Park (corner of Burgundy and Barracks.) For more information call 486-1734 or 949-6542.

THE SPIRITUAL BASIS of neopaganism rests on the belief in the duality of nature—the perfect union of male and female as reflected in the goddess and the horned god. Gay men and women embody this ideal. As a result, gay men and women held a position of respect and power in most nature religions. What we need is your help, the help of all individual neopagans and neopagan groups. We want you to share in the uplifting experience of uniting with other neopagans in the thrill of creation, the creation of our future and the rejuvenation of our past. If you are interested in participating in this creative union, please call Henri Roca (Gwydion-Wyngick) at 822-5641 or Deni Gerreighy at 891-1831 or please write to Gwydion Wyngick, P.O. Box 791191, New Orleans, Louisiana 70179.

FOR SALE

2-1982 Yamaha motorcycles—Special 650 II's. Both under 1000 miles, 947-4284 (5/1T/PD)

DUMAINE AND DERBIGNY, small corner lot, bus stop, near Quarter, permit approved for double house, \$7,000 full price, terms, Paul Peterson, P.O. Box 52622, New Orleans, LA 70152.

FOR RENT

APARTMENT FOR RENT, 2 bedrooms, upstairs and down, full kitchen, uptown area, \$350 per month. Gays preferred. Call after 5:00 P.M. 482-8406.

WASHINGTON AVENUE off Magazine Street. Apartments, 2 bedroom, loft style, also 1 bedroom. \$250 and \$350. 368-8811 or 288-3293.

ONE BLOCK TO QUARTER in Marigny Triangle. Two apartments; share enclosed patio. Small pets welcome. \$325 and \$375. 947-9278 days, 271-8828 evenings. (6/1T/PD)

ROOMMATES

ROOMMATE NEEDED—for air conditioned house in New Orleans East. Near Downman Road. \$150 per month. Call 244-7609.

TWO GAY MALES need roommate to share 1/3 of utilities. Rent is \$200 per month. Call 947-2036.

ROOMMATE WANTED—White male seeks same to share large home 6 miles west of New Orleans International Airport. Kenner-St. Rose area. \$240 per month. Utilities included. 467-6753.

SERVICES

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CONTROL YOURSELF! Complete two hour self mastery program \$25. Subliminal learning group, 917 Henderson St., Thibodaux, LA 70301 (6/1T/PD)

OPPORTUNITY! Let me know if I can help you set up your own business with unlimited earning potential, no territorial limits, and bonus trips and automobiles for less than \$20. Call 838-8135, Dave Pettyjohn. (6/1T/PD)

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We Offer Only The Best; Young, Hot, Discreet Models Willing to Fulfill Your Every Fantasy.
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HELP WANTED

SULTRY WOMYN, flashy ucons and deep-voiced men's men are invited to audition for our phone fantasy service. If you are heavily into people and erotica, have an active fantasy life, ability to think fast, and a flair for relating the naughty and bawdy you may qualify for a unique phone position. Call Gaylen, noon til 4 P.M., 566-0859.

VIEUX CARRE MODELS—Now accepting applications for models. We're looking for a few good men. For a confidential interview call 504/522-3819.

PERSONALS

YOUNG, WHITE, THIN body wants deep ass play. Toys, fisting, your fantasy. Prefer experienced. Novice okay. Detailed letter, photo, phone. P.O. Box 51372, NOLA 70151. (6/1T/PD)

YOUNG CLEAN CLUT Slim photographer seeks same to enjoy his hobby. Write Impact, Box 6 A. (6/1T/PD)

W/M honest, good-looking, settled, but shy. Age 36, 6', 175 lbs, wanting to broaden my realm of friendships and acquaintances by meeting people with similar traits looking for rewarding, caring experiences. Impact, Box 6-B (6/1T/PD)

LONELY G/W/M, age 45, weight 128, height 4'11". Brown hair brown eyes. I am looking for lonely g/w/m age 18 to 35 that wants a one-to-one love and wants to settle down. Impact, Box 6-C (6/1T/PD)

MISCELLANEOUS

LOST—Large solid black cat. Declawed in area of Marigny/Quarter. Call 528-9176, days and 522-0538, evenings. REWARD!

VISIT SAN FRANCISCO and bed-breakfast in private Gay homes. Friendly. Comfortable. Bed-By-The-Bay, 1155 Bosworth, 94131. 415/334-7262 (6/3T/PD)

TWINS NEEDED FOR gay related research. Gay and lesbian twins call collect 602/962-7955 for questionnaire. Evenings.

ROOMMATE—for 2 bdrm. apt. on upper Royal St. \$200.00 and utilities. Must like cats. Call 947-4284. (5/1T/PD)



A Lacs Airline representative spoke of the beauties of Cancun and Costa Rica at a travel seminar at the Country Club, hosted by Robert Lake and Rusty Bonin of the Travel Centre.

FIND IT AND SELL IT THE CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED AD NOTICE

We will publish any classified ad, for practically any purpose or reason, provided that it does not violate existing Libel Laws and meets our oh-so-stringent, as Mink Stole puts it in "Pink Flamingoes," community standards regarding good taste, vulgarity, and the rest of that foolishness.

Non-profit organizations, Birth and Death notices, Messages (or a personal, snide, dishing or hectoring nature) are all free. Yes, free, but then you knew that, you sly pussies.

Now, we have to charge for the others. This means commercial classifieds, For Sale or For Rent ads taken out by individuals to get rid of hot diamond tiaras and unwanted progeny of pets, the hiring of people to do the windows with vinegar and brown paper, the renting of garages and slave-quarters and pieces of camelbacks, et alia.

We also charge for our Personals ad in which you can solicit/describe that person or thing that will take you to places that even the poets only whisper about. And suppose you find Mr. or Miss Right? Isn't it worth a few bucks?

There is a \$5 minimum for Paid Classifieds (a smart-looking bold face sub-heading is included in the \$5 minimum if you wish), and confidentiality regarding Personals is assured. We can even assign you an exclusive box-number—and haven't you always wanted one deep down?—and forward your mail to you or you can grace us with your presence at our posh Bywater offices and we can see whether or not you are lying in the self-description you put in your ad.

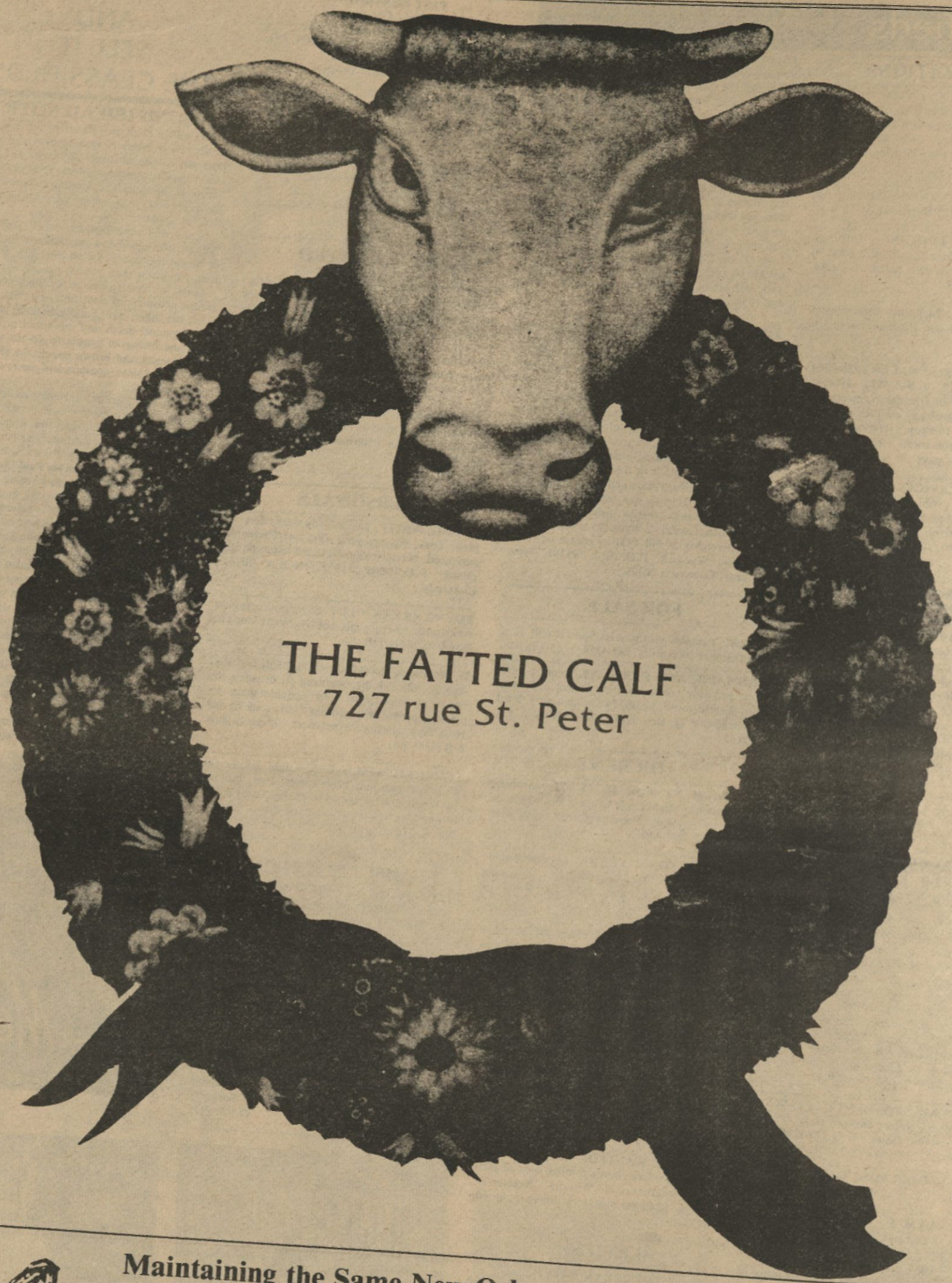
To place an ad, simply dig up a piece of paper, and allow 25¢ per word (remember the \$5 minimum) and figure out the amount of money required. If you send the wrong amount, we will not print your ad, so don't say you weren't warned. Make payment to IMPACT, P.O. Box 52079, New Orleans, LA 70152. Deadline for classified is the 25th of each month. We must receive your classified by mail. Please—don't call the office—we no longer accept classifieds by phone.

To respond to a personal ad, include the box number i.e., 2A to the above address.

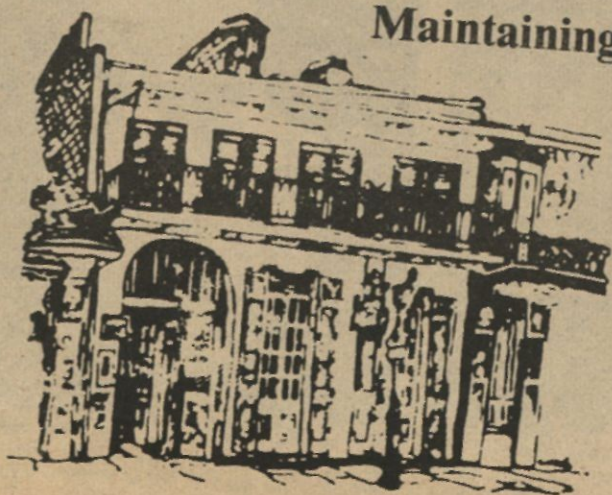
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FREE Ear Piercing
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We weren't sure whether this was Marilyn Monroe after the lean years or Ethel Mertz who delighted the packed house at Pino's for the Miss Gay World Contest.



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GULF SOUTH GAY NEWS

VOL. 6, NO. 7

JUNE 17, 1983

FREE



Mitchel Rubin, Editor of Impact and Angela Hill of Channel 4 discuss the AIDS situation in New Orleans at a June 8 meeting. Two meetings were held so far to form an organization to deal with the current AIDS epidemic. The first was held at the office of IMPACT and at that meeting all in attendance agreed that it was imperative that some type of "umbrella" committee be formed with Mitchel Rubin serving as the coordinator. The second meeting was held at the St. Mark's Community Center on June 8. Again, the consensus of opinion was that something needed to be done.

That something is now being done. An organization based on the charter of the Gay Men's Health Crisis (N.Y.C.), the AIDS/Shanti Project of San Francisco, and Los Angeles AIDS Project, is now being formed. Both a charter and a tax-exempt status are being sought. We are appealing to the community for help. AIDS IS A VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM. We are concerned enough to do something, are you? If so, please attend the next general meeting to be held upstairs at the BOURBON PUB/PARADE on Wednesday, June 29th at 7-9 p.m..

Got the Gypsy in Your Soul?

There's a "gypsy caravan" coming to town!

The fiery sounds of a lover's violin, the dancing of tambourines, the swirling of brightly-colored costumes, the enjoyment of good food...all will combine when Crescent City Coalition throws this party!

Mark off June 27th on your calendar, and get your rags together. Get ready to help Crescent City Coalition celebrate its 2nd anniversary with a gypsy-themed party.

The place will be the Raintree Cafe, 437 Esplanade.

The fun will begin at 7 p.m.

No gypsy encampment would be complete without fine food, and Fran, the Raintree's food magician, has promised a

meal fit for the most flamboyant gypsy. Dinner will consist of a fine salad, fantastic Hungarian Goulash, crisp vegetables, coffee or tea, and culminated with an excellent dessert.

All this food prepared by the finest restaurants in our community, plus all the excitement of strolling musicians, fortune tellers, prizes and surprises for \$10 per person.

Groups of four may reserve a table together for an additional \$5 per table.

Come, enjoy and celebrate with Crescent City Coalition. Tickets may be obtained at the Raintree, from Crescent City Coalition members, or by calling 949-9026.

1983 Mr. Gay America to be Held in New Orleans

Bob Governo, south central coordinator of the Mr. Gay America Pageant announced on Wednesday, June 8th, that it has been decided to hold the National Finals in New Orleans, October 8th-10th. New Orleans was in consideration with Houston, and Minneapolis, but because of the tremendous support that New Orleans has put behind the Mr. Gulf Coast Pageant, which is a preliminary to the Mr. Gay America Pageant, New Orleans won hands down. The preliminary competition will begin on Saturday, October 8th at Menefee's on Rampart St. The actual pageant will be held at the St. Bernard Auditorium on Sunday, October 9th with top ten finalist fighting it out on Monday (Columbus Day), October 10th. The contestants will be staying at the Ramada Hotel on Canal Street.

As far as the Mr. Gulf Coast Pageant is concerned, Bob says that the response is much better than originally expected. This is the first pageant ever held in Louisiana as a preliminary to the Mr. Gay America Pageant, a gay event to be held at the Beverly Playhouse. Due to the fact that this is a one night pageant instead of two, a total of twenty-five (25) contestants only can compete. At this time, twenty of the twenty five slots have been filled with contestants coming from Florida, Mississippi, Texas, as well as Louisiana. This leaves only Alabama as the only Gulf Coast state that has not been heard from yet. Bob is very confident that all five states along the coast will be represented by the July 15th deadline.

Due to the limited seating at the Beverly, tickets should be purchased early. Prices of tickets are \$15 and \$10, but all the \$15 tickets have already been sold and there is only a limited amount of \$10 tickets remaining at this time. For further information about tickets, call (504) 522-3819, or (504) 523-4940. Although dress is not formal, attire befitting the Beverly would be appreciated.

Contestants will be competing in swimwear, formal wear, sportswear, self-expression, as well as a personal interview. Competition will actually begin on Saturday, Aug. 13th at Menefee's. Registration is from 11 to noon, orientation from noon to one, personal interviews will be held from one to four with the swimwear competition from four to five ending the first day's events. On Sunday, Aug. 14th, Diane Di Miceli of Diane's will be hosting a Champagne "Meet the Contestants" Party from three to six at Diane's, 2317 Jefferson Highway. Then the final night, Monday, Aug. 15th at the Beverly Dinner Playhouse, 217 Labarre Road (across from Diane's) with competition starting at seven. Doors will open at six.

MC's include the renowned female impersonator Glenn Elliott from Miami who was born and raised here in New Orleans, and is looking forward to coming home and working in his old backyard. Also, the handsome Wayne Nidiffer, former Mr. Gay America 1979 & 1980. Entertainment includes The New Orleans

Mens Chorus, Lurch, Miss "E", Olive, and Ruby known for their recent Heels on Wheels Rest Area show at Travis's this past Tuesday, and Estelle, C.B. LaVerne, and Twinkie, the Supremettes.

Vieux Carre Models, who is supporting the event, is very proud to announce that at least 25% of profits, and 100% of all donations will be sent to Tulane School of Medicine for A.I.D.S. research where the money is so desperately needed.

Bill Parker, from Atlanta who runs the Mr. Gay America Pageant, says he is looking forward with great anticipation to bringing the finals of the Mr. Gay America Pageant to New Orleans for the first time, and will also have some of the proceeds going to A.I.D.S. research.

For further information on either pageant, contact Bob at (504)

Charlie Murphy Concert to be Held in New Orleans

Charlie Murphy will perform in concert on Friday, July 1, 1983, 8:00 p.m., at Baker's Hall, 2001 Burgundy St. (at Touro).

The concert is being sponsored by Crescent City Coalition. Proceeds from the event will be used in developing a Community Center to serve lesbians and gay men in the Greater New Orleans area.

Tickets for the concert are \$6, in advance, \$7.50 at the door. Baker's Hall is an air-conditioned facility. There will be a cash bar.

Those attending to make an additional \$5 donation will be invited to attend a champagne reception with the artist following the concert. This reception will be held at the Club Room of The Refuge.

Tickets are available from Crescent City Coalition members, or by calling 947-5295.

SHOW YOUR PRIDE
Attend
CELEBRATION '83

PRIDE
IN
THE
PARK
JUNE 19

Support
ALL GAY PRIDE
ACTIVITIES

FEEDBACK

STONEWALL BETRAYED???

I AM OVER IT!!

Once again I find myself critized editorially and I decided to come to my own defense. Many groups over the past fifteen (15) years of my being involved with the gay community have attempted to organize the many social and political organizations in this city with little success. It usually gets blamed on poor management, apathy, and usually somehow, ends up being the fault of the lack of interest by the almighty, powerful, bar owners.

Bullshit!

Why don't these individuals, groups, organizations, etc., face the fact that perhaps they are not offering anything to this particular community.

I find New Orleans much better organized than any radical city I have ever visited. I don't find the need to picket, protest or stomp my feet. I believe in working within the American system of conversation and possible compromise. Dr. Martin Luther King also realized that much more is accomplished by working together, rather than splitting up into factions.

I have organized and publicized volleyball games, bowling leagues, etc. to promote gay harmony. I work with the local politicians and police to encourage better relations for all of us. I have never and will never offer a "gift of appreciation" to anyone. I don't join any one group, but rather work with as many as possible. I don't try to force my opinions on others, but I feel I have the right to form my own. I work hard to make a living, and fortunately, I am able to live fairly well. I am not affluent.

By now you know who I am. I AM GAY AND PROUD. I AM A GAY BUSINESSMAN. I AM A GAY BAR OWNER. I AM NOT AFRAID TO USE MY NAME. I AM LOU BERNARD (Lucille) AND I AM OVER IT!!!

AN OPEN LETTER ABOUT AIDS

As part of the recent media blitz regarding AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) in the greater New Orleans area, the implication is made that nothing has been done here to address the problems of this life-threatening condition.

In fact, at least three of our gay organizations (in cooperation with several other groups, both straight and gay) have been working diligently on the problem: Crescent City Coalition, LAGPAC (Louisiana Gay Political Action Caucus), and NORCO/LAGPAC (the New Orleans Regional Chapter of LAGPAC).

In July of 1982, when AIDS was still being called GRID (gay-related immune deficiency), Crescent City Coalition called a public meeting to be held on August 10th, to begin an educational process about the serious implications of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. The guest speaker at that meeting was Dr. James P. Carter, Chairman of the Dept. of Nutrition at Tulane University's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

As a direct result of that meeting, Crescent City Coalition established its Committee on Health which was charged with the responsibility of establishing programs of education, information, referral and counseling.

In issues 7, 8 and 9 of *Crescent City Courier* (August-November), Crescent City Coalition reprinted "Toward A Healthier Gay Lifestyle," a booklet developed by Citizens for Human Equality in Houston. That series of articles included the then-most-current information about AIDS.

With the cooperation of Blood Research Institute, the Tulane School of Medicine, and volunteer health professionals, Crescent City Coalition sponsored screening clinics on October 21 and November 15, 1982. These clinics provided testing for both Hepatitis B antigens and surface antibodies. Skin tests were also administered to determine the screeners' natural ability to fight off infections. When Merck, Sharp and Dohme discontinued pooling plasma from homosexual males, the Committee was forced to discontinue these screenings. It is hoped that they will be resumed in the near future.

Since that time, the Committee on Health has made presentations to the staff of Delgado Clinic as well as at several public meetings in local bars and at meetings of interested organizations.

In cooperation with Dr. Louise McFarland, Chief of the Epidemiology Section of Louisiana's Department of Health and Human Resources, a referral system was established for patients presenting themselves at Charity Hospital.

The Committee on Health has been cooperating on an ongoing basis with the Tulane University School of Medicine and with the New Orleans Health Department in their programs addressing AIDS.

On the political front of the battle against AIDS, LAGPAC and NORCO/LAGPAC have been intensely involved since the fall of 1982. LAGPAC has been working closely with Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL) to obtain needed funds for AIDS research and monitoring. Louisiana is considered an important state because three members of our congressional delegation (Representatives Robert Livingston (R-L1) and Lindy Boggs (D-L2) and Senator J. Bennett Johnston (D) sit on Appropriations Committees.

On December 4, 1982, Dr. Marcus R. Smith, President of the Kaposi's Sarcoma Research and Education Foundation, and LAGPAC's Statewide Coordinator, Ron Rogge, announced that Congress had overwhelmingly approved \$2.6 million for CDC's AIDS monitoring program.

Continuing to push for additional funding (and more rapid disbursement of previously allocated funds), NORCO/LAGPAC representatives met with Rep. Lindy Boggs and obtained from her a commitment to support additional monies for AIDS research. Organized by NORCO, letters and phone calls continued to Rep. Livingston. The representative responded that he had voted for bills which included funding for AIDS and would consider supporting others.

Statewide, LAGPAC has organized a lobbying network targeting Sen. J. Bennett Johnston. Gay community members from Shreveport, Alexandria and Baton Rouge have been contacting the senator and their representatives expressing their concern about AIDS and the need for congressional action.

On May 25, 1983 these lobbying efforts, New Orleans and statewide, showed their first results. The House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly for a supplemental appropriations bill which included \$12 million in "new" money for AIDS research in fiscal year 1983. The AIDS portion of the bill, which was supported by the entire Louisiana delegation, doubles the money allocated this year.

In the Senate, a nearly identical bill passed the appropriations committee without objection, receiving the full support of Sen. Johnston. His office states he will unhesitatingly vote in favor of the appropriation when it comes to the full Senate later this month.

In addition to congressional support, Mayor Ernest Morial has thrown his political strength behind AIDS funding, requesting to serve on the AIDS Task Force of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Appointed vice-chair of the Task Force, which has been organized by San

Francisco's Mayor Diane Feinstein, he has pledged to help lobby Louisiana's delegation for funding.

Assuming the passage of the \$12 million appropriation, lobbying must continue for fiscal year 1984. Several bills are pending which need support. The FY1984 budget requests \$10 million for CDC for AIDS monitoring (HR2713) and \$20 million for NIH for research (HR2763); the Waxmann Bill (HR2713) will set up a "public health emergency" fund within NIH's budget to speed up spending of needed research dollars and the Weiss Bill (HR2880) will alleviate the overwhelming financial burden persons with AIDS face by automatically making them eligible for Medicaid benefits. LAGPAC and NORCO/LAGPAC have been distributing information about these bills throughout the state while expanding the AIDS lobbying network.

The undersigned acknowledge that much remains to be done. Current planning of the organizations includes: continued efforts at education, information and lobbying; the establishment of a metropolitan area-wide AIDS hotline, referral and counseling service, and, ultimately, the establishment of a clinical facility for the early detection of AIDS and other sexually-transmitted diseases.

We believe that to suggest that nothing has been done locally to address the health concerns of our community is not only false and misleading, but it is also an example of the negativity that seems to permeate our society.

Richard T. Devlin, President
Crescent City Coalition
Ian Anderson, R.N., Chair
Crescent City Coalition
Committee on Health
Mary Jones, Co-Chair
LAGPAC
Alan Robinson, Co-Chair
LAGPAC
Linda Bush, Co-Chair
NORCO/LAGPAC
Leonard Doty, Co-Chair
NORCO/LAGPAC

A VIEW FROM THE LAVENDER LEFT

Gay Pride Week is a time to remember as well as a time to look forward. In New Orleans those memories must include the tragedy that struck our community 10 years ago this month. At 7:56 pm June 24th, 1973 fire broke out at a popular gay bar, the Up Stairs. Sixteen minutes later the fire was brought under control. During those 16 minutes 27 people burned to death, two others died when they jumped to escape the flames, 15 were injured, two of whom later succumbed. The final total was 31 dead, 13 injured in New Orleans' most disastrous fire since 1794.

The *Times-Picayune* described the horror at the corner of Iberville and Chartres. Arms dangled from the second story floor windows; some bodies just hung limply but scorched from portals in the building in full view of spectators. Reporters went inside and brought out this grim picture. They were mangled and burnt as they fought to get out the windows...falling on top of the other.

"They were just piled up. People in a mass...one falls then another falls...It's just an ass of death...it's sickening" Dr. Rabin (Parish Coroner).

In another corner of the bar near a fire escape with no stairs to the ground were the bodies of the others.

At least two others died crawling under a piano on the right side of the gutted bar-room...

...the death toll could rise when the badly charred, entangled bodies are removed...Some of them burned to the bone" (reported Dr. Rabin).

A survivor told reporters, "the small people seemed to get through the window but the bigger people just couldn't get

out...Dave Larsen, a pastor at the Metropolitan Community Church, got caught in the window and I just watched him burn.

"He had one arm out an I heard him scream, 'Oh, God no!' In the next window beside him, three people burned to death while I could only watch."

Boston's *Gay Community News* of the day referred to the fire as...the worst incident of sexist genocide ever perpetrated against our gay brothers and sisters since the Salem witch burnings.

Homphobia followed these victims even to the grave. Several churches refused to provide space for memorial services because the victims were gay. No official expressions of sympathy were offered to the families of the dead. The Police Department's chief of detectives was quoted as saying, "We don't even know these papers (found on the bodies of the victims) belonged to the people we found them on. Some thieves hung out there and you know this was a queer bar." That officer was honored by some members of the gay community at a recent cocktail party. That officer is now Police Superintendent Henry Morris.

A quote from a *Times-Picayune* editorial of ten years ago points up the most important question for us today. Will the *gastriness of Sunday nights fire be dimmed by passage of time, accusations and counter-accusation, committee reports and finally, no solid action to spare repetition?*

Is our community vulnerable to a repetition of the Up Stairs tragedy? The fire ten years ago was reported to have been deliberately started. Whether from the White House or on the street, attacks on lesbians and gay men are growing. Both the Ramrod in New York and Mary's in Houston have been fired upon by anti-gay forces. There is no reason to believe that these same forces could not graduate to fire bombings. A fire might also sping from more innocent and mundane sources. Wherever it might come from, fire is a danger we must guard against in our crowded bars.

We do not pretend to be fire prevention experts but every responsible bar patron can ask herself/himself a fire simple question: Continued on Page 7

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Senator J. Bennett Johnston, Jr.
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20501

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130 Cannon Bldg.
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Mrs. Corinne "Lindy" Boggs
1524 Longworth Bldg.
Wash., D.C. 20515

W. J. (Billy) Tauzin
222 Cannon Bldg.
Wash., D.C. 20515

June 1983

The Honorable

Washington, D.C.

Dear

As a concerned citizen I am writing to you today to bring to your attention a serious menace to health, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, more commonly referred to as, "AIDS." This syndrome is now indiscriminately attacking productive members of society and is increasing at an exponential rate. The recovery rate at this point in time is zero and the mortality rate is 100%.

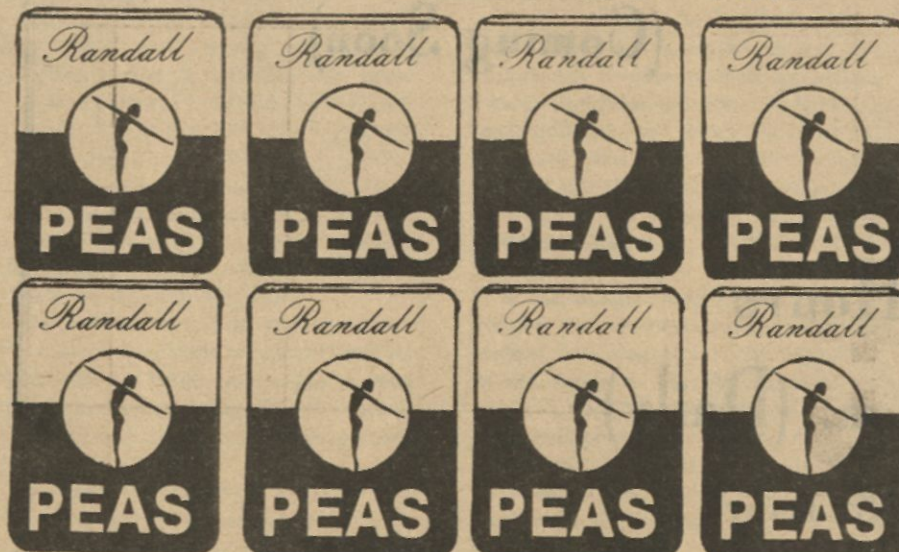
I am urging you to consider and enact any means or legislation, and in particular to consider enacting the Waxman and Cranston Bills, HR2713 and S1226, which would immediately appropriate needed and necessary funds to begin and or continue sorely needed research.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,
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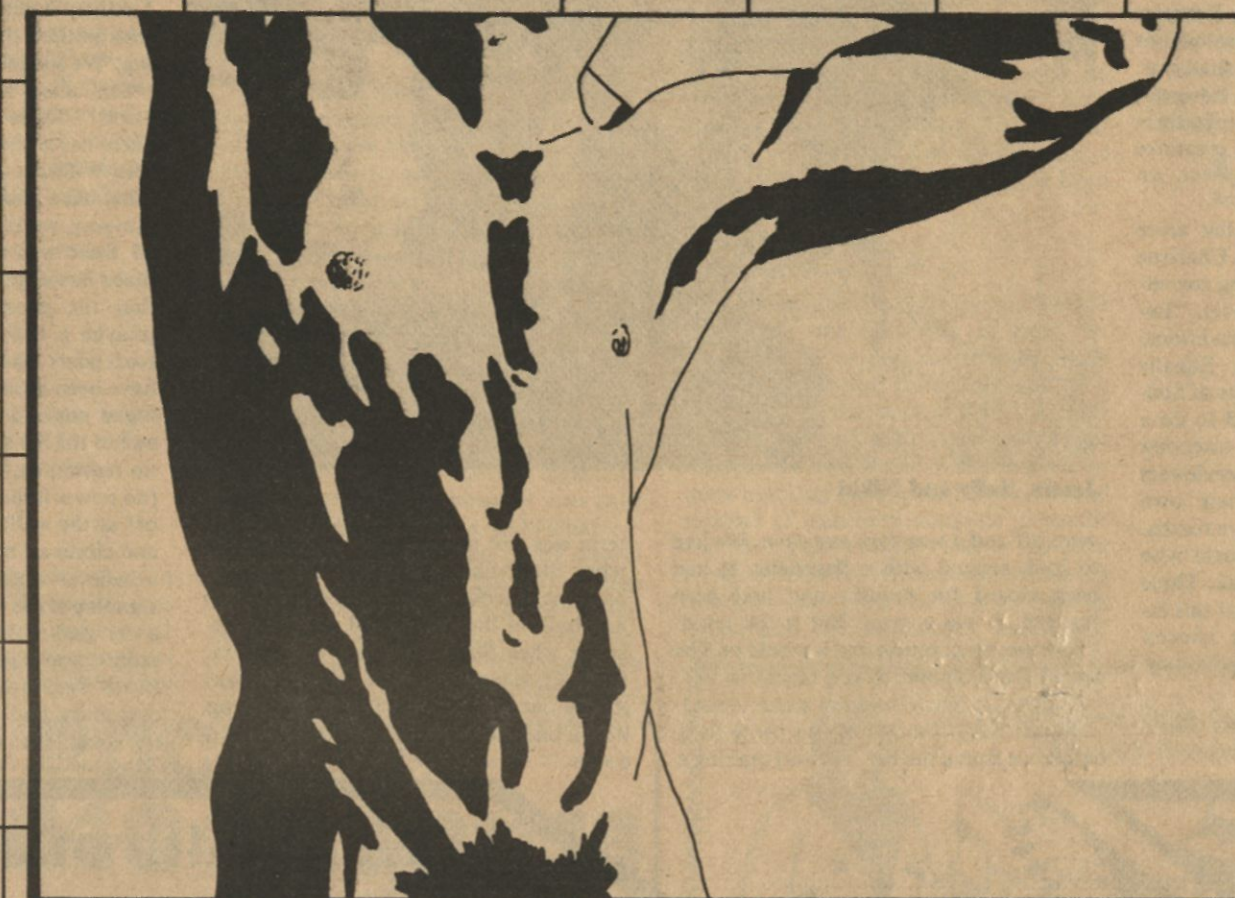
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Living The Life

By Marcy Haynes

Three great ladies own The Soiled Dove Saloon at 308 N. Rampart. They are Nikki Patterson, Sally Swetlik and Jessie Dykes. Interestingly enough, among their shared attributes (and possibly even their personal qualifications for opening a bar of any kind) are Naster's Degrees in Social Work. Jessie is retired from that profession. Nikki curtailed her official job in that capacity after nearly 15 years. Sally remains both a Social Worker and Bar Owner.

"The Dove," as it is popularly called, opened for business at the climax of Mardi Gras on February 20, 1982. It was a welcome location at the time because all the other gay women's bars on Rampart had moved or closed, leaving most lesbians bereft of a parade headquarters that year. By midafternoon Fat Tuesday, however, the Dove was stuffed to its pinfeathers with gays, straights and assorted creatures that defy classification. It was an auspicious beginning.

Considering the difficulties that arose with our previous interview with Charlene Schneider (a wealth of fascinating conversation that had to be cut for space), "Impact" decided that a three-way, traditional interview would be impossible. Equally impossible would be three months of Soiled Dove interviews. We decided to do a somewhat unorthodox written interview with the assumption that interviewees make the best editors of their own material. We were surprised by the results. There are still people in the world who write as interestingly as they speak. Three of those people are the subjects of this interview. Nikki Patterson was chosen spokes person though all three ladies had input to her answers.

IMPACT: How did the Soiled Dove come to be?

Nikki: It was a dream for at least five years prior to our openings. We looked at a number of locations, but knew the present building was the place when we first saw it. I use the phrase "saw it" loosely because when the real estate agents (thanks Dody and Susan!) took us in, the utilities



Jessie, Sally and Nikki

were off and it was dark as a cave. We had to look around with a flashlight. It had been closed for months and had been flooded. It was a mess! But it felt good. There was no question that it would be The Soiled Dove Saloon. It was meant to be.

IMPACT: What does the name mean?

Nikki: Sally thought of the name long before we found the bar. She was making a

joke and couldn't believe it when she realized we actually intended to use it. "Soiled Dove" is a term that was used in the Old West to refer to women who ran or frequented saloons—they were "fallen women" if you will. (Hence the use of a boot from a bordello as the logo.) This



term was still popular in the early 1900's when Storyville was in its heyday. It so happens that our bar (the building, that is) was built in the 1800's and was a whorehouse when Storyville was in operation. It's very interesting that the name was picked out so long ago and we ended up with a place which was created by "soiled doves." More interesting than that,

however, is the fact that three prostitutes were killed in the building and I'm here to tell you they are still around.

IMPACT: Maybe you'd better elaborate on that statement.

Nikki: I know there are non-believers, but I'll go on with the story as if it's not ridiculous: Odd things usually happen when there is little activity in the bar—early in the day when we first open or near closing time. We all noticed things, but never mentioned them to each other until one afternoon when Al Hooks (our manager) and I were opening the bar. The draft beer machine, now, contained no compressor, no motor, no nothing. Al and I walked behind the bar and at the same time noticed the draft machine was running. We looked at each other and I said, "This place has a ghost!" Al said "I know!" Jessie came in and we said, "This place has a ghost!" Tim said, "I know." Tim Williams came in and we said, "This place has a ghost!" Sally said, "Bullshit!" Anyway, we all compared notes and realized there was no question about it—the place has a ghost. Now, I want to stress that the ghost is friendly and helpful (maybe a little mischievous). All of the bartenders and a number of customers have been around when someone is working at one end and the straws at the other end of the bar suddenly fall to the floor for no reason; or, when the lights just go out (no power failure, they have been switched off at the wall); or, when the door opens and closes all by itself. Even Sally became a believer when one night when she was standing at the front door and the trunk of a car parked nearby slowly raised up (it didn't pop open) and closed. She ran. Most recently, one of our regular customers had a few too many cocktails (or something) and refused to let us call a

Continued on Page 7

Ladies of the Night (Part II)

Ladies . . .

Continued from Page 6

cab for him. While Dalton (who works the door) was trying to take care of him a service cab from Metairie pulled up and asked who called a cab. Ordinarily, cab drivers do not get out of the cab and most often they will not accept and intoxicated fare. This driver not only got out, he helped our customer to the cab! Now, you and I both know who called that Cab.

IMPACT: You've mentioned Al, the manager and Dalton. Who, besides yourselves, are your other bartenders?

Nikki: We have a super staff. There's Evan, Gary, Nyla, Pam, Rene, and Susan. They each contribute something special. We also have many great customers who help out any way they can. We can't name them all here, but they know who they are and that they are appreciated.

IMPACT: You are set up for live entertainment. Is there any special schedule?

Nikki: We are quite proud of our entertainment. Every Wednesday night we have John Magnie at the piano. Our house band is The Tim Williams Band. Others include Little Queenie and Backtalk, Colleen Porter and Lady Ray. Entertainment nights, besides Wednesday, are Fridays and Sundays.

IMPACT: Sometimes coming out stories are interesting. When did you come out?

Jessie: When I met Nikki.

Sally: When I met Nikki.

Nikki: I'm not gay.

IMPACT: HA! Very interesting, indeed.

What made you want to be a bar owner? The money, the hours, the people?

Nikki: Yes.

Sally: Yes.

Jessie: Yes.

IMPACT: Seriously now, do you, as a bar owner, feel you have a responsibility to the gay community beyond normal bar functions? Since the Dove opens its doors to gays of both sexes, straights and

everyone in between, do you consider it a gay bar?

Nikki: First, yes, we feel we have a tremendous responsibility to our community. We do welcome straights and gays of both sexes because we believe the best way for us to understand and accept different values is to play together. However, it should be understood that we are a GAY BAR which welcomes straight customers who are worthy. We have some very nice straight customers who have discovered that gay people, in fact, have one head and are warm and breathing. We recognize that there is nothing more dangerous than ignorance and we hope to dispel as much as possible. We are always happy to support any constructive movement which has the benefit "to protect our finest."

IMPACT: This interview will appear in the June, Impact. June culminates in Gay Pride Week. How do you feel about Gay Pride Week, Stonewall and gay liberation movements such as lobbying groups, task forces etc.?

Nikki: We believe that gay movements are very necessary just as lobbying, task forces etc. have been necessary tools used by other minority groups. However, when this is not taken seriously and allowed to be tainted by a handful of people with poor judgement or rotten taste, it is most destructive. When you are a member of a minority, you have to be outstandingly good in whatever you do.

IMPACT: In your opinion, what killed Gay Fest in New Orleans?

Nikki: Gay Fest probably failed to materialize because the gay community in general does not feel the full impact of discrimination. Even though it does exist and everyone can offer individual examples, as a group we feel pretty secure. This may or may not be good, but it does seem to be the case. We will have special events at the Dove during Gay Pride week.

IMPACT: Last month Charlene made the point that in her opinion the gay sense

of "family" seems to have disappeared. How do you feel about that?

Nikki: We think the unity is there, it's just not real active right now. The people in our age group (75 and older) can remember when it was against the law to be gay. Homosexuality was still classified as a mental illness in medical journals. We do have some freedom now that never existed before so the pressure is off (or disguised) for the time being. It is important, however, that we don't relax too much. "In time of peace prepare for war."

IMPACT: Finally, do you think that gay women should have "back rooms" in the same sense that gay men now have back rooms?

Sally and Jessie: We do not think that gay women or men should have "back rooms." This is simply not a value system identified with by the staff and customers of the Soiled Dove Saloon. The only thing people will ever visit our back room for is #1 or #2. These are our bathrooms.

Nikki: I absolutely, unequivocally do not think gay women should have "back rooms." I do not condone that kind of animalistic, perverted, deviant behavior. I think it should be brought out in the front room where it belongs!

Lavender Left . . .
Continued from Page 2

tions about their favorite tavern. Is there more than one exit? Can all exits, including windows and shutters, be easily and quickly opened from the inside? If a fire occurs at the front of a bar, is there another way out? Are all exits always kept clear, or are beer boxes or cleaning equipment blocking the way out? Does the total number of exits seem adequate to handle the bar's peak crowd? (This is the most likely time for fire to break out. At the Up Stairs it was during the popular Sunday beer bust.) Are decorations, wallpaper,

carpets, and furnishings fire resistant? Is there a sprinkler system? (Fire officials stated that loss of life at the Up Stairs could have been minimized if the lounge had possessed a sprinkler.) Do bartenders receive instructions on what to do in case of a fire? (Bartenders can play a critical role. The lives of twenty Up Stairs survivors were credited to a bartender who lead them through a rear door to safety.)

It is incumbent upon us all to review these questions with the managers and owners of our favorite bar. City fire codes or fire inspections are not enough to protect us. The Up Stairs met city code. Historically fire inspections of gay and lesbian bars are a means of harassing our community not a way of protecting it. This is a concern we are forced to handle ourselves. To ignore it is to allow those who perished ten years ago to be forgotten.

(The Lavender Left is a group of Lesbians and Gay male socialists that involve themselves in the fight for Lesbian and Gay Liberation, as well as other relevant struggles in our community.)

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